



1021 Kingsway, Suite 1, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

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Workforce System Network Committee Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair, Stacy Snider; Latricia Fennell, Krystal McLane

Members Absent: Diana Salazar, Sandra Cabot

Board Staff Present: Gretchen Morse & Danise Clay

July 23rd, 2025 - Virtual Only 9:00am-10:30am

- **Welcome**

Meeting opened by Committee Chair, Stacy Snider. The meeting began with introductions, including Krystal McLane, who has taken Kevin Gruenwald seat.

- **One-Stop Operator Report for PY24 (Final)**

The Workforce Development Board of Southeast Missouri highlighted significant achievements in PY24 program year, including serving over 1,200 more customers than the previous year.

Two new YouthBuild partnerships were added this year, expanding the region's reach with programs now operating through Community Partnership in Cape Girardeau and the newly launched YouthBuild with DAEOC in Portageville. Meanwhile, funding shifts resulted in the loss of Job Corps and the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

Reentry services expanded significantly, with weekly and bi-weekly offerings now available at three correctional facilities: Farmington, Bonne Terre, and Charleston. In addition, two new employer-focused tools—*The Second Chance Employer Hiring Guide* and *Top 10 Reasons for Second Chance Hiring*—were launched and received statewide recognition for supporting justice-involved job seekers and the businesses that hire them.

The Park Hills Shop Center collaborated with Mineral Area College to host a successful hiring event connecting job seekers with employers.

The team also reviewed the regional workforce landscape, including a noted decline in workforce between PY23 and PY24. Contributing factors include population decline of younger workers to higher-paying areas and an aging local workforce. The discussion also addressed ongoing challenges related to health and recovery, skills gaps, and regional efforts to meet evolving labor market demands.

For over 15 years, the Southeast Region has offered free WorkKeys testing as a key workforce strategy. Testing is proctored at all job centers and serves a diverse group of job seekers and employees seeking career advancement at no cost. This year, WorkKeys testing was expanded to the Perry County Justice Center, since April 2025 more than 10 incarcerated individuals have completed assessments and earn credentials to support post-release employment.

The report reflects a strong commitment to innovation, inclusion, and system responsiveness, as the region continues to adapt to emerging needs while delivering impactful services across all WIOA program areas.

- **One-Stop Operator Monitoring Review for PY24**

The committee received the annual review of One-Stop Operator Linda Fitzgerald, commending her for her strong performance and effective collaboration with required partners. The review is part of the Board's

ongoing oversight to ensure compliance with WIOA regulations and the proper separation of duties. Gretchen provided an overview of the monitoring process, which includes verifying allowable activities, confirming role separation, and ensuring adherence to federal compliance standards. The review found no concerns related to Linda's decision-making or her execution of responsibilities.

The committee acknowledged the value of Linda's leadership and the positive working relationships she has cultivated across the workforce system, reinforcing confidence in the continued effectiveness of One-Stop operations in the region.

- **Regional Program Enrollments PY24**

An overview provided of PY24 enrollments and performance data for WIOA-funded programs. The Boards subcontractor, EDSI exceeded its contract enrollment goals for PY24 which included 100 new Adult/Dislocated Worker enrollments and 60 new Youth enrollments.

Ms. Snider presented an overview of enrollment activity, reporting a total of 447 clients served in PY24. The breakdown included specific counts for WIOA Adult, WIOA Youth and WIOA Dislocated Worker participants, reflecting strong outreach and service delivery across the region. The team noted that enrollments typically decline toward the end of the program year, largely due to budget limitations and the time case managers spend preparing potential clients for future participation. Despite this trend, the region continued to perform strongly.

Finally, the group reviewed state-level comparative data, which highlighted Southeast Missouri's consistent level of enrollments in all WIOA programs. Youth enrollments, in particular, showed a notable increase over previous years, indicating effective targeting and outreach in that population.

- **Regional WIOA Performance PY24 (Draft data load 6/2/25)**

Key insights were shared regarding preliminary performance data for PY24, covering the WIOA Adult, WIOA Dislocated Worker, and WIOA Youth programs. The Southeast region demonstrated exceptional performance, consistently exceeding the negotiated benchmarks of 90% achievement across all measured indicators. The region maintained strong outcomes across all three-program areas, with no red indicators reported. Performance metrics highlighted high enrollment figures and strong earning outcomes, reflecting the effectiveness of program delivery and participant engagement. The team also discussed the impact of Wagner-Peyser funding, which supports state staff and job center operations. Southeast is one of only five regions statewide receiving these funds—a point of distinction the Board expressed pride in. This additional support has contributed to enhanced service delivery and continued success in meeting performance goals. The committee confirmed that the region is on track to meet all 15 WIOA performance measures for the program year, reinforcing the effectiveness of program oversight and strategic implementation.

- **State WIOA Program Monitoring Report PY24**

The committee reviewed the State WIOA Program Monitoring Report for PY24. The report showed no formal findings, indicating overall compliance and program strength across WIOA-funded services, including WIOA Adult, WIOA Dislocated Worker, and WIOA Youth programs. While the report noted areas of concern, specifically regarding E-Verify compliance among subcontractors, the committee confirmed this issue had been addressed and resolved several months prior. Despite its inclusion in the year-end report, it was acknowledged as a closed matter. The report also included the usual observations related to case note documentation. However, these were minor concerns and did not impact overall program integrity or performance. The committee agreed that the monitoring results were positive, reflecting strong administration and oversight across multiple program areas.

- **Next Meeting – October 8th, 2025 Virtual at 9am**

- **Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Latricia Fennell , seconded by Krystal McLane, all in favor, motion carried.**