



1021 Kingsway, Suite 1, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

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Workforce System Network Committee Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Stacy Snider, Vance Read, Latricia Fennell, Kevin Gruenwald, Sandra Cabot

Members Absent: Diana Salazar

Board Staff Present: Gretchen Morse & Danise Clay

January 8, 2025 - Virtual Only 9:00am-10:30am

- **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am. Meeting began with discussions regarding Kevin's coming up retirement. Stacy expressed her thoughts, highlighting his caring nature and the potential impact on the juvenile system. The group acknowledged the challenges faced by those in the field. Conversation reflected an appreciation for Kevin's contributions over the years.

- **One-Stop Operator Report for PY24 Q2**

Gretchen shared highlights of the One-Stop-Operator quarter report detailing initiatives aimed at preparing individuals in correctional facilities for employment upon release. The Southeast Regions mobile job centers have been recognized as a best practice by the state. Mobile job centers are located in Ste. Genevieve County, Iron County and Madison County. Job center customer traffic for the region in quarter 2 was 2,623, a slight increase from quarter 1. In 2023 the Southeast Region job center traffic was 10,992 customers. In 2024 the traffic was 11,219 Customers. The regions employer job order referrals in quarter 2 was 2,095 a slight decrease from quarter 1. The Cape Girardeau Job Center's open house and ribbon cutting that was held 11/7/24 was well attended. The Cape Girardeau Job Center hiring event on 1/7/25 was postponed due to inclement weather. Gretchen also covered the importance of WorkKeys testing through the region and the National Career Readiness Certificate in evaluating workforce skills, with specific requirements from employers like Proctor & Gamble and TG Missouri. Many schools in the region utilize WorkKeys testing as well for their senior students. Gretchen discussed the "Second Chances in Missouri" guide. The guide provides insight to employers on hiring justice-involved individuals. Committee received announcement from MO Governor Parson's office regarding the \$97 million expansion at TG Missouri in Perryville. The expansion will bring new equipment to the company to allow further automation, and provide new business for its Perryville facility.

- **Regional Program Enrollments PY24 Q2- EDSI**

As of 12/31/24 the Boards sub-contractor, EDSI was serving 429 WIOA customers in the region. EDSI's new enrollment progress under WIOA is in line for them to meet contractual goals within their contract.

- **Regional WIOA Performance PY24 Q2**

Gretchen shared the regions WIOA/WP performance as of the 12/9/24 data. The Southeast region is performing strongly and exceeding negotiated achievement goals. The WIOA AD/DW/Youth skills gain measure is slightly low but is expected for this time of the year. Danise will continue to track predictive performance rosters and work with the EDSI Program Manager to ensure exited records are in compliance with performance.

- **Local WDB Policies**

A new short-term WIOA Work Experience Completion Incentive Initiative policy was introduced to the committee. This short-term policy will provide one-time \$200.00 incentive for each customer that completes their work experience during 1/1/25-6/30/25. The funds to support this initiative will be paid from the region's PY23 performance incentive grant. Motion to approve policy made by Stacy Snider, seconded by Sandra Cabot, all in favor, motion carried.

The current sub-state compliance and monitoring policy was in need of several necessary updates to align with state guidelines. Motion to approve updates as proposed made by Kevin Gruenwald, seconded by Stacy Snider, all in favor, motion carried.

- Committee Chair, Stacy Snider will provide committee update at full board meeting on 1/17/25.
- **Next Meeting** – April 9th ,2025 Virtual 9a-10:30a
- **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn by Stacy Snider, seconded by Kevin Gruenwald , all in favor, motion carried.