

DRAFT
WASHINGTON COUNTY
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
WebEx Meeting
February 17, 2021

Members Present

Chris Dressel	Robin Anthony	Mike Dolphin
Christopher Eng	Susie Evans	Jordan Fry
Tara Gearing	Erin Kampa	Cynthia Larson
Monica Ramirez	Greg Renne	Julie Strommen
Lori Tapani		Tom Yuska

Action Team Members

Adesewa Adesiji	Stan Karwoski	Michelle Kemper
	Sara Shanley	

CareerForce Staff Present

Deb Cunningham	Tina Dudzinski	Robin Hakari
Rachel O'Connell		Karen Ritter

WDB Partners

Duane Gatzke – former WDB Member

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair – Christine Dressel

Chair, Chris Dressel, called the meeting to order. The attendance of Members, Action Team Members, Partners, and CareerForce staff was recorded. It was determined there was a quorum of business members in attendance. A Motion was made to approve the Agenda, it was seconded, and the Motion was approved. A Motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from October 21, 2020, it was seconded, and the Motion was approved.

2. Washington County Workforce Development Needs

Reports from Action Team Meetings

Business Engagement Action Team – The team is focused on leadership development, shorter pipelines from training to employment, access to work friendly transportation, culturally competent businesses, and leveraging chamber partnerships and situational business advocacy. Chris Eng reported good turnout for the December meeting where they decided it would be good for Rick Roy to join the team. They are looking at partnerships with chambers and breaking down the silos between workforce service providers, business and educators by being a connector to share expertise and ideas.

Community Engagement Action Team – Cindy Larson said the team wants to support and develop a network between workforce and the community through engagement, development and education. Priority 1 – provide easier access to virtual opportunities and current services for both staff and community partners. They want to learn more about careerforcemn.com

and will have Robin explain the platform to the group. Priority 2 – integrate CareerForce services with community partners by building a presence with them and understanding their needs. They will work with the community partners listed on our MOU. Priority 3 – coordinate with community activities having a proactive presence and to make sure they have a purpose. Priority 4 – develop a Resource 101 service guide for staff and partners to use as a reference in answering customers’ questions and making referrals. They will look at what has already been done, how to keep it updated and who will be responsible for maintaining it. The team also discussed adding people to the team who have received career services in the past to get their feedback and representatives from housing and food shelves.

Education Engagement Action Team – Susie Evans said the team promotes all post high school education, career pathway education beginning in the middle school, and assists with getting employers into the schools to talk about careers. The team talked about the Perkins grant and how to get South Washington County Schools into manufacturing companies to learn about careers in that field. She is working with Nick Falde’s ALC program to offer additional opportunities and merge programming.

Sarah Shanley said this is Career and Technical Education (CTE) month. Part of their work through Perkins is to supplement career and technical programs in the high school. They are also working with the middle schools to expose them to businesses because they have the least number of CTE classes. The Career Guide, a partnership with Century College, has been printed and lists all the employers in the East Metro with wages and other information. She is working with other Perkins leaders on supporting the 35-40% of high school students who are going directly to work after high school. Julie Strommen added they have 90 openings at Renewal by Andersen and have decided to triple the number of people in leadership programs to get them in the door and mentor and coach them into higher positions.

Oversight Action Team – Chris Dressel said the team oversees what is required administratively by federal law and reviews documents and agreements. The chairs of the other teams coordinate their activities. Michelle Kemper said Rick Roy gave her some updates: the One Stop Operator selection is progressing with an RFP reviewed by the County Board. The Regional and Local Plans are being drafted. There is one open position on the WDB. Rick is finishing up a grant on low wage earners in healthcare.

Commissioner Stan Karwoski said there will be two apartments opening in Oakdale along the Gold Line, one with affordable units. The Gold Line project will break ground in three years and cost \$500 million with 45% paid by the federal government. They are looking for a service center site along the Gold Line in Woodbury but completion will take several years. The Governor’s budget has a proposal about sending transportation costs back to the counties which they are opposed to.

3. Other Updates

Board/Action Team Meeting Schedule through June, 2021 – The Action Teams will meet in March and April with the next full Board meeting in May. The June meeting has not been decided yet.

Board Members

Tina Dudzinski, CareerForce Woodbury: The next Pathways to Prosperity training is a collaboration with Century College, Great Rivers Adult Education Consortium, Intek Plastics and Renewal by Andersen. The training will prepare students to be Certified Production Technicians and will start June 7th to align with high school graduations and end August 6th. Classes will be a combination of online classes, independent study and some in-person if possible. Cory Sindt is the coordinator: Cory.Sindt@co.washington.mn.us or call him at 612-449-4221.

Greg Renne, Finishing Trades Institute Upper Midwest (FTIUM): They received a worker readiness grant from the Department of Labor and Industry to provide two five-week long cohorts. It will start mid-April teaching worker readiness and an introduction to industrial coatings, drywall finishing, glassworker and glazier programs. They are targeting women and minorities between 18-24 but will accept anyone.

Adesewa Adesiji – DEED: April will be Tech Month, highlighting the tech industry in Minnesota and events will be passed along to Board members.

4. Motion to Adjourn – Chris Dressel

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded, and the Motion was approved.