

Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 22, 2017
Iron Range Resources, Eveleth MN

Regularly scheduled meeting called to order by Chair Stone at 10:08 a.m.

WDB members present:

Bud Stone, Paul Carlson, Dave Debevec, Betsy Harmon, Wayne Kangas, Terri Nystrom, Roland Root, Roy Smith

Excused: Wade Fauth, Bill Maki, Allen Rasmussen

Absent: Darik Carlson, Kelsey Johnson, Lynn Krall, Jeff Lee, Stan Paczynski, Jason Quiggin, Todd Scaia, Kelly Zink

Guests: Theresa Luther-Dolan, Minnesota Department of Corrections; Tom Saxhaug, former member of MN Senate; Lorrie Janatopoulos, Iron Range Resources; Tracy Chase, AEOA

Staff: Michelle Ufford, Renee' Marconett

Motion was made by Smith, supported by Nystrom to approve the January 25, 2017 minutes as written; motion carried unanimously.

MN Department of Corrections

Theresa Luther-Dolan, Transitions to Postsecondary & Career Coordinator

The mission of the Minnesota Correctional Educational Center (MCEC) is to provide educational opportunities that advance academic achievement and successful community re-entry. Students will be recognized as valuable contributors to Minnesota's developing workforce.

The MCEC consists of two programs:

Secondary credential program (ABE)

- GED
- High School Diploma
- MN State Adult Diploma
- ESL

Post-Secondary education

- CTE certificate and diploma programs
- AA degrees
- College and career readiness bridge programming

The minimum educational standard for all DOC offenders is a verified high school or GED diploma. The educational goal for all DOC offenders is preparation for and/or completion of post-secondary training or education. Adult facilities must provide comprehensive educational programming including literacy, general education development (GED) and high school diploma, special education, transition to post-secondary and career, post-secondary, life skills, and other programs designed to prepare offenders for successful re-entry into society. Facility programming is directed by the Master Academic Plan. 2,500 students are served on any given day; 9,000 students participate annually in all MCEC programs. An average of 4,000 ABE students are served per year (12% female/88% male).

Luther-Dolan noted the MCEC is one of the top five in the Nation among all State DOCs in GED passing rate at 91% (national average is 75%). They are the second largest ABE consortium in the State, with over 100 graduates in the MN State Adult Diploma program since the program began in 2015 (450 total secondary credentials in FY16). 615 Career Technical Certificate/Diplomas were awarded in FY16.

Other services offered through the MCEC include the Minnesota's Statewide Implementation of Recidivism Reduction (MNSIRR); Transition from Prison to Community Initiative; Facility Transition Centers; MINCORR Industries, EMPLOY, and the Bridge Program.

Marnita's Table Update

Marnita's Table is a mission-driven nonprofit organization that seeks to measurably increase social capital across race, class, culture, gender and other means of self-identify in order to catalyze transformational change where racial and cultural difference are not viewed as deficits or merely tolerated, but instead viewed as assets. The event was held in Duluth on February 28th at Community Action Duluth. Board members expressed their feedback – the turnout was good, table conversation was great, but were disappointed about the training piece and found little value in the event.

Regional Work Plan Revisions

A copy of the Regional Work Plan was sent out to all board members to review prior to meeting. Ufford reviewed the plan and outlined the eight different goals.

1. Establish Regional Leadership Approach
2. Negotiating Performance Levels
3. Identify and Implement three regional service alignment goals
4. Coordinate with Economic Development
5. Identify populations experiencing inequities in education and employment outcomes
6. Create 1-3 sector partnerships
7. Stakeholder Engagement
8. Submission of Local Plan that align with Regional Plan

After extensive discussion and input, motion was made by Smith, supported by Kangas to approve the Regional Work Plan as written; motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Development

The Northeast Workforce Development Board By-Laws and Conflict of Interest/Code of Conduct Policy was reviewed by Nystrom, Stone, and Root. Ufford mentioned a few language changes have been made to the By-Laws. The Conflict of Interest policy is designed to ensure that members of the Northeast Minnesota Workforce Development Board identify and disclose situations that present possible business or organization conflicts of interest and to provide an appropriate procedure if a possible conflict of interest arises. This is a new policy and each board member is required to complete a Conflict(s) of Interest Disclosure form. Members discussed and agreed on making some revisions to the policy; after which time will be voted on electronically.

Regional ABE Application Review

WIOA requires the Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota's Adult Basic Education (ABE) agency, to implement a competitive process for distributing federal WIOA Title II funds which allows eligible entities to compete by showing their success in providing adult literacy services and how their programming aligns to and supports the Local Regional Plan. Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency has submitted an application. Smith, Stone, and Nystrom have volunteered to independently review the applications. Feedback forms must be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education by April 24, 2017.

One Stop Operator Procurement

The NE MN Workforce Development Board is soliciting proposals to identify an experienced organization or qualified consortium of partners to provide One-Stop Operator services for the Northeast Minnesota workforce development areas as required under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Workforce development-minded organizations with successful past experience who can thoroughly demonstrate that they have the ability to provide the management and oversight services requested will be considered.

The organization(s) selected to perform in this role will operate under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NE MN Board starting on July 1, 2017, ending on June 30, 2018, with possible annual renewal of up to four years provided all articulated expectations and performance criteria are successfully achieved.

Following board member discussion on the purpose, background, and roles of the One-Stop Operator and Scope of Services; motion was made by Debevec, supported by Nystrom to approve the RFP procurement as written; motion carried unanimously. Nystrom and Debevec, along with Ufford and Stone, will review submitted proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m. Next Workforce Development Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, 2017.