

Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training
Workforce Development Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 26, 2018
Virginia Workforce Center

Regularly scheduled meeting called to order by Chair Stone at 10:07 a.m.

WDB members present:

Bud Stone, Wade Fauth, Josh Goutermont, Terri Nystrom, Jason Quiggin, Allen Rasmussen, Todd Scaia, Roy Smith, Jeri Werner

Excused: Darik Carlson, Dave Debevec, Betsy Harman, Wayne Kangas, Bill Maki

Absent: Paul Carlson, Kelsey Johnson, Lynn Krall, Jeff Lee, Stan Paczynski, Kelly Zink

Guests: Shawn Herhusky, Elena Foshay, Lorrie Janatopoulus, Patricia Welsch, Jeff Andrews

Staff: Michelle Ufford, Heath Boe, Renee' Marconett

Motion made by Rasmussen, supported by Goutermont to approve the September 26, 2018 agenda as written; with no additions or revisions; motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Rasmussen, supported by Nystrom to approve the June 27, 2018 minutes as written; motion carried unanimously.

Elena Foshay is the new Duluth Workforce Development Director. Ufford expressed thanks to her for attending today's meeting.

Child Care Presentation – First Children's Finance

Jeff Andrews, Business Development Manager

Patricia Welsch, Business Development Specialist

During the asset mapping study, it was verified that childcare is a big issue in the workforce right now. Andrews and Welsch were invited to talk about the situation in our region.

First Children's Finance (FCF) helps children, families and communities thrive by increasing the availability, affordability and quality of early care and

education. They provide financial and business-development assistance to high-quality child care businesses serving low and moderate income families, and build partnerships that connect these vital businesses with the resources of the public and private sectors.

Individual Business Level – FCF helps child care entrepreneurs start and grow sustainable businesses.

Community Level – FCF partners with communities to develop local solutions to address child care shortages. They analyze child care supply trends, innovate ideas to create new slots, empower communities to implement right sized solutions, and provide technical assistance.

Systems Level - FCF partners with states to create systems that improve the sustainability of child care businesses. They identify opportunities to leverage resources, build public-private partnerships, and advocate for sustainable funding mechanisms.

The following programs are offered through the FCF:

Business Training and Consulting - Training and one-on-one consulting, focused on building essential business skills to create or maintain high quality child care businesses.

Community Consulting – Consulting and planning assistance for communities around Minnesota to increase child care supply.

Loan Fund Program – Loans to child care centers and family providers to expand, improve or start a new child care business.

Rural Child Care Innovation Program – RCCIP is an intensive 24-month community engagement process designed to increase the supply of high quality affordable child care in rural communities.

After the presentation, board members had an opportunity to ask questions and give their input on child care issues around the area.

Equity and Diversity Committee Report

Michelle Ufford

Equity committee members from the Northeast and Duluth region met on August 30, 2018 to discuss the concept of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and who would be administering the assessment. Five different proposals were received, and after review the committee selected Equity Alliance. They have extensive training in implicit bias and equity-based decision making focused on leadership, along with recognizing barriers that can affect employment. The IDI assessment will be administered to all staff in the Workforce Center (NEMOJT, AEOA, Job Service, State Services for the Blind, and Chippewa Tribe), the Workforce Development Boards and Equity/Diversity committees in Duluth and the northeast region.

After lengthy discussion, **motion was made by Fauth, supported by Rasmussen to approve Equity Alliance to administer the IDI assessment; motion carried unanimously.**

Skilled Trades Career Pathways Committee Report

Heath Boe

The committee has met with Art Unlimited to discuss the next steps in moving forward with the website design for the Skilled Trades. Art Unlimited has been taking pictures at different worksites to gain images for marketing to highlight ethnic diversity, women, and a variety of skilled trades across Northeast Minnesota.

Art Unlimited provided a number of various “218 Trades” logos and color options for the committee to review. This is in the early stages and a student focus group will be formed to give their input and ideas. The committee is hoping to launch the “218 Trades” website in advance of the summer 2019 construction season.

Construct Tomorrow will be held on Tuesday, October 9th at the ROCC in Eveleth from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There are currently over 200 students planning to attend and eight trades have confirmed to come and have hands-on

trade skills available for students. The committee is exploring the idea of doing the event on their own next year, as they do not have any flexibility with Construct Tomorrow sponsoring the event.

Regional Healthcare Summit Update

Shawn Herhusky

The next Regional Healthcare Summit will be held on Friday, November 9th at the Mt Iron Community Center. Attendees will have the opportunity to gain insight into health care workforce activities taking place within the region and participate in discussions that will help shape workforce priorities and initiatives. Some of the key health care workforce issues and concerns include workforce shortages, competition for wages, retention issues, and employee morale.

CareerForce Update

Michelle Ufford

Board members received a handout from the MWCA outlining the progress of the CareerForce. The leadership group plans a public launch in 2019 with marketing, events, and potential for more prosperity. In the meantime, staff will be prepared for the CareerForce rollout in November 2018. A culture brand kit will be distributed to help staff and partners bring CareerForce to life. The kit will include a variety of brand and culture-building materials, including staff and customer posters, brochures, brand playbook, sample communication material and collateral ordering instructions.

Membership

The Workforce Development Board needs one additional member from the private sector. Ufford will send out an email to board members explaining what the board is all about to share with individuals who may be interested in joining the WDB.

Miscellaneous

APEX will be invited to a future meeting to explain their product. APEX is a private sector-led business development engine established to promote sustainable growth in the region. APEX investor-members represent many of the largest and most influential organizations in the region with a vested interest in business attraction, expansion and retention. APEX business and economic development efforts focus on areas including aviation, technology, manufacturing, professional services and next generation forest products.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at the Virginia Workforce Center.