

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING

Location: Virtual Meeting & Virginia CareerForce
Date: May 12, 2022
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Facilitator: Marie Domiano

Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** 11:18am by Commissioner Adee
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Commissioner Adee, Commissioner Proulx, Commissioner Mills, Commissioner McDonald Excused: Commissioner Niemi Absent: Commissioner Walsh, Commissioner Ives Staff: Domiano, Helms, Lampton, Carson Gorecki (DEED)
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Move to approve 5-12-22 agenda by Commissioner Mills, seconded by Commissioner McDonald, no discussion, unanimously passed and approved.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: 3-10-22,** Motion to approve with no corrections or additions by Commissioner Mills, second by Commissioner Proulx, no discussion, unanimously passed and approved.
- V. **Old Business:** No old business.
- VI. **New Business**
 - a) **Funding Update:** All federal and state grants are all in order. We need to get to 80% spent by June 30th, we will carry over 20% into new year as planned. County funds go into December we are on track. Moved money into incumbent worker training based on community and regional needs. No concerns on reaching 80% spend down benchmark.
 - b) **Audit Results:** All good, all-in line. There was only one finding, it was a journal entry that was posted and removed. No other findings in audit report. Great feedback from auditors, and improvement over last year. Lampton received BA in accounting through support of leadership of the board and Marie.
 - c) **Labor Market Information- Carson Gorecki (DEED):** Labor force in the region declined over the last 2 years (2019-2021), growing slower in our region compared to other regions in the state. We also have slow population growth. Slight growth in March 2021-March 2022 but slowest in the state. Our labor force in MN fell further than WI and greater than national average. We started in the top 5/6 in terms of labor force participation, however, have not rebounded as well. Aitkin is exception to labor force change in 2019-2021, compared to other 6 counties in region. Aitkin is oldest county in the state in terms of age, Cook is similar in age, but did not fair as well as Aitkin in labor force. Koochiching decreased in population. Unemployment Rate overall decline, and now we are lower than pre-pandemic. We are more efficiently getting people into those jobs that are available. 3% employment is defined as full employment, running out of people looking for work. Unemployment rate reached an all-time low last fall (2.8%). Number of unemployed is 2,151 lower. Last QCEW release shows a continuing yet sowing recovery of employment in NE Minnesota. Largest relative employment losses recoveries in Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties, minor gains in Aitkin, more severe employment loss relative to the rest of the state due to industry mix, we have larger share recreation industry.

Largest wage growth Mining, Art, entertainment, and recreation. Turnover, we have a slightly lower quit rate than the rest of the US, but it is rising. Openings are increasing and hires is steady. Number of job seekers per job about 0.6 seekers for every 1 job. 1.6 openings per person. Most jobs in Health Care and social assistance. NE MN has the highest vacancy rate: openings represented about 10% of all jobs filled and unfilled. NE MN has the lowest median wage among regions in Minnesota and the highest vacancy rate in MN. 12,886 vacancies in Q2 2021.

Who left the labor force? Labor force participation is down 4% in MN, 1.7% in US. Participation decline is most obvious for older workers. Declined more for women than men. Most people out of the labor force simply to not want a job (94%). About 6,000 people in NE MN do want a job. 64% haven't looked in the last year. The share of workers out of the labor force for family responsibilities more than doubled for 25-54-year-olds. Parents of young children are about 10% of those not in the labor force, as are people with disabilities. When asked, "What do you do when childcare is unavailable", most said utilize PTO, but if unavailable, cut hours or leave job. Most common in lower income parents.

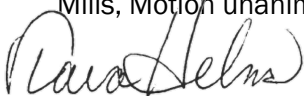
For those looking for work, Mpls Fed survey of job counselors. Many overlapping objectives. Pay is still #1. Desire for flexibility is on the rise. Counselors found more difficulty getting less educated, older, disabled, and new immigrant jobseekers into jobs they want. Jobseekers and employers report being "ghosted". Communication needs improvement on both sides also noted barriers include low pay, inflexible, lack of employer response, low benefits, lack of telework, excess requirements, screening and/or HR practices. Why are jobseekers not taking available jobs: family matters, job access, transport, job quality, wage, motivation, fear of covid, under qualified, overqualified, want to start own business.

- d) **Telework:** Virtual services appropriate when an employee would telework. Adee nature of job requires public interaction and critical to duties. Cook County has remote work policy and is losing workers to remote options. Mills would approve on a trial basis, Cook County is considering 4-day work week. McDonald there is a significant number of people that need hand holding, must be cognizant of have people in office and have face to face contact. Needs to be equitable in all locations.
- e) **Location Updates:** Re-imagining JET committee to look at service delivery and physical footprint. Leases in Cloquet in June, Duluth in September, and I Falls in January. Cloquet will remain in county building. Hoping to reduce the space there a little bit, with hope to reduce space. Duluth is own WDA, looked at alternative spaces, we decided we will remain in that space for another 3-year term. International Falls, not Backus, maybe into new food shelf building, or coworking space concept. On campus now, but outside of town so hard to access for clients. Evaluating options and model our service for what community needs. Send county ideas to Marie for incorporation.

VII. **County Updates**

VIII. **Next Meeting:** 7/14/22 @ 11am

VIII. **Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner McDonald, seconded by Commissioner Mills, Motion unanimously passed and approved. Adjourned at 12:39pm.



Tara Helms, Recording Secretary



[Commissioner Thomas Proulx \(Jul 14, 2022 09:59 CDT\)](#)

Tom Proulx, LEO Secretary




5.12.2022 LEO Minutes (1)

Final Audit Report

2022-07-14

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