

Minneapolis Workforce Council

January 15, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Present: Carolyn Roby, Laura Beeth, Anthony Goze, Todd Klingel, Ken Lundquist, John Mbali, Daniel McConnell, Tyler Olson, Carlyle Peterson, Jim Roth, Chad Telford, Terrell Towers, Linda Vang, Craig Vana

Staff: Deb Bahr-Helgen, Felisha Burns, Mark Brinda, Catherine Christian, Teresa Harrold, Linda DeHaven, Marie Larson

Guests: Shym Morgan – DEED, Cathy Polasky – CPED, Andrea Ferstan – Greater Twin Cities United Way, Anne Kilzer - MWCA

Excused: Sharon Bredeson, Darla Figoli,

Unexcused: Elizabeth Campbell, Douglas Flateau

****Carolyn Roby called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.**

Welcome and Chair's Report

Carolyn Roby welcomed the Minneapolis Workforce Council members (MWC) and guests, and thanked Greater Twin Cities United Way for hosting the MWC meeting.

Greater Twin Cities United Way: Andrea Ferstan, Director of Income Strategies at United Way, welcomed MWC members and guests. Andrea informed the MWC that she works on public policy efforts and heads United Way's efforts on the Skills @ Work campaign. In closing, Andrea also informed the MWC that Greater Twin Cities United Way is a significant funder of job training programs in the Twin Cities.

Announcements: Carolyn asked MWC members to promote STEP-UP when meeting with colleagues, at associations meetings, etc. Deb informed the MWC that the new STEP-UP brochure is available and that the annual STEP-UP Achieve Partners Breakfast will take place on Friday, February 8, 2013 from 7:30am – 9:00am at the Marquette Hotel.

Approval of Minutes

The November 20, 2012 minutes of the Minneapolis Workforce Council Meeting were moved and approved.

Committee Reports

Adult Committee: Ken Lundquist submitted the following Adult Committee report:

The ten Minneapolis Adult Program partners, providing employment and training services to disadvantaged Minneapolis residents, placed 106 individuals placed in unsubsidized employment in 2nd quarter of the program year (October 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012) for a total of 255 placements since July 1, 2012. No agencies are operating under corrective action.

On November 13, 2012 the Minneapolis Employment and Training Program successfully facilitated a Best Practices Workshop for the Adult Program employment service providers. The workshop was held at Goodwill/Easter Seals and covered several of the topics that were brought to the Adult Committee's attention during the spring 2012 site visits as well as topics such as working with ex-offenders and community collaboration.

The Individual Referral Program (IRP), operated by Minneapolis Employment and Training Program staff, is now providing tuition assistance and case management services to 58 students/clients who have undergone a thorough assessment and interviewing process. In this quarter, 10 participants have completed their training with AAS degrees, nine in nursing (RN) and one participant with an AAS degree in Respiratory Therapy. At this time, the majority of the students are enrolled in health care related programs with a large number of future Registered Nurses.

Having entered the ninth month of operation, RENEW Minneapolis outreach continues, with employment service providers engaging trained participants in job seeking services. The total number of participants reached 225 this quarter. RENEW Green Homes North (funded by a grant through the Governor's Workforce Development Council) trainees concluded classroom work and internships in November, 2012. Four of these interns have already secured employment with construction and building systems maintenance companies: positions include construction project management, building systems maintenance, and carpentry.

Motion to Pursue an Adult Program Redesign in 2013:

In light of the roundtable discussions held during the last two Minneapolis Workforce Council meetings and the partner site visits held in 2012, the Adult Committee would like to pursue an Adult Program redesign during calendar year 2013, with the intention of preparing to release a Request for Proposals in spring 2014 for all services related to Adult Program training and job placement services. During 2013, the Adult Committee and METP Adult Program staff would like to gather information from partners and non-partners as to how best to redesign the Adult Program to meet the needs of the low-income job seekers.

A motion was made for the Adult Committee to pursue Adult Program redesign in calendar year 2013. **The motion seconded and passed by unanimous vote**

Dislocated Worker Committee: Catherine Christian submitted the following Dislocated Worker report:

Veteran's Project update:

Our Veteran's Special Project is ending March 31, 2013. METP submitted a modification last month to return funds that we will not spend so that the state could free up the money for other uses. Based on surveys of returning Veterans provided to us by DEED, we originally estimated that we might serve 26 clients; our modification reduced that number to eight. MPR recently reported that of the more than 500 service members who returned from the Middle East without civilian jobs, guard officials say only 35 are still looking for work.

DEED asked for brief observations about the effectiveness and/or efficacy of these grants. We provided these comments from DEED staff at the Workforce Center (our subcontractor for this grant):

- We were pleased to have the opportunity to offer Veterans special help via this DW project. Our Veterans' Rep was diligent in promoting it. We even developed a specialized Employment Ready Vets (ERV) Job Seeking skills training series just for Veterans. As a result, a number of Veteran's came to our office and participated in ERV. All were grateful for ERV, however unfortunately many of them did not meet the eligibility requirements for the Dislocated Worker Program (recently returning Veterans, traditional layoff, or even Long-term Unemployed DW).
- Appears the GI bill was a major factor. Several recently returning Vets were utilizing their GI benefits, and felt they didn't need to be involved in any additional program or services.

Unemployment Insurance update:

As part of the fiscal cliff negotiations, on January 1, 2013, Congress passed and the President signed a bill that moves the end date of Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) to December, 2013. What this means:

- Applicants currently receiving EUC who have not exhausted those benefits, will stay on the program.
- Applicants who exhaust regular UI (26 weeks) will be able to apply for EUC through the end of 2013.
- Applicants who have already exhausted EUC are NOT eligible for more EUC – the bill did not extend the number of weeks available, it's still *only up* to 14 weeks.
- All EUC applicants will be scheduled to attend a Reemployment Orientation session at their local WorkForce Center. Applicants will receive a letter in the mail informing them of the date, time and

place of the Reemployment Orientation. Failure to attend this orientation session will result in denial of EUC benefits.

- EUC applicants will have to continue making an intensive work search every week in order to maintain their eligibility. Beginning 4/30/2012, each EUC applicant has been asked additional questions when he or she requests benefits. These questions are intended to ensure that applicants are making an effective work search each week. Applicants' answers will be reviewed by Unemployment Insurance program staff. Failure to conduct an intensive work search will result in denial of EUC benefits.

Other committee updates:

The next meeting of the DW committee - with our DW service provider partners - is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2013. Agenda and location information will be sent out this week.

Youth Committee: Craig Vana submitted the following Youth Committee report:

2013 STEP-UP

Application:

- The 2013 STEP-UP application was released on December 17, 2012.
- New this year, all youth must apply online. Over 1,000 applications have already been submitted since the release.
- METP is working with community partners that offer staff and/or computer assistance for youth to apply. A list of agencies providing support is also listed on the STEP-UP web page.
- The deadline to apply is March 4, 2013.

STEP-UP Brochure/Pledging Jobs

- METP is working to disseminate the brochure to employers; both private sector and nonprofit—as well as out to the community at large.
- Additional information about pledging jobs for 2013 is on the STEP-UP website.

STEP-UP Achieve Partners Breakfast

- Please see enclosed handout.

Other METP youth programming news:

- METP has been selected as an implementation site for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) grant that was awarded in November 2012. METP will receive \$165,000 per year over the next three years for the purpose of linking Minneapolis youth ages, 14-24, to gainful employment through individualized needs assessment and comprehensive services such as career planning, post-secondary career education, systems linkages and service coordination and other promising practices.
- Minneapolis PARTNERS for Youth Conference will be held Friday, March 1, 2013 at the Minneapolis Central Library. This third annual event is coordinated by METP and is being offered in partnership with Hennepin County. Approximately 150 local youth serving professionals are expected to attend a variety of workshops related to serving youth and families.
- METP staff is contributing to the seventh annual Minneapolis Teen Job Fair to be held at Minneapolis Central Library on March 23, 2013. Each year approximately 1,000 youth attend the event to meet employers, learn about volunteer and internship opportunities, camps, and employment and training services/providers.

Minnesota Workforce Council Association (MWCA) Legislative Update: Anne Kilzer, Director of the MWCA, presented an overview of the 2013 MWCA Legislative Agenda. Anne stated that MWCA is the cooperative efforts of 16 area workforce councils across the state of Minnesota and consists of 48 voting members: a chief local elected official, the workforce council chair, and the workforce service area director. Anne also stated that the MWCA is affiliated with Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC). Anne stated

that the full MWCA meets bi-annually, the MWCA Executive Committee, consisting of eight members, meets quarterly, and that the MWCA Operations Committee, which consists of 16 members and meets monthly.

A copy of the presentation can be found at the following link:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/7groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-104094.pdf>

Skills @ Work Update and Discussion: Andrea Ferstan, Director of Income Strategies, Greater Twin Cities United Way, presented an overview of the Skills @ Work campaign. She stated that the Skills @ Work campaign is a statewide effort to engage employers, educators, community, and workforce organizations in developing solutions to increase adult credential attainment in demand occupations. Andrea stated the three broad strategies are to: engage key stakeholders in creating sector-based regional plans for recruiting, training, retaining and advancing employees to skilled jobs; align strategy, resources and policy; and develop a statewide goal and shared metrics across systems to measure increased credential attainment.

A copy of the presentation can be found at the following link:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-104093.pdf>

Minneapolis Workforce Council Meeting Adjourned at 9:30am

Next Minneapolis Workforce Council Meeting:

**Crown Roller Mill
Tuesday, March 19, 2013
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TTY (612) 673-2157

Minneapolis Employment and Training Program (612) 673-5298