



Business Services/Economic Development Meeting

Date: August 13, 2020

Time: 9:30-11:30am

Location: Online meeting

Attendees: Mark Jacobs, Becky Accettura, Elena Foshay, Dan Solomon, Liz Jennings, Eriann Faris, Jose Cabrera, Marie Larson, Bridgett Backman, Jackie Buck

On-the-Job and Work Experience Guides – Bridgett Backman, Anoka County

- These two guides are meant to help provide structure for individuals starting work experience opportunities.
- There is a youth participant focus which has basics and a COVID-19 addendum.
- Anoka County has some OJT program participants who are youth. Employers set the wage for OJT, and it has different hours, so this sometimes works better depending on the situation.

What's Going On? – Items of Impact and Interest Regarding Employers and Employer Services

Department of Labor and Industry – Youth skills training has resumed walkthroughs. Apprenticeship has upcoming online events. One of them is a speaker on equity who will present a three-part series. On October 15, DoLI will host an introduction to registered apprenticeship for manufacturing event. Another similar session about healthcare is planned for December 17. The Dual Training Pipeline recently held a webinar, and another is planned for October 13.

DEED, Liz Jennings – Monday morning career fairs have served 98 employers so far. Liz has been in meetings with Lorrie Janatopoulos and the question of how to transition people back to work has come up. This may be a future meeting topic.

DEED, Jackie Buck – August 21 is the next statewide leadership planning meeting. Jackie will forward materials from that meeting after it happens. Workforce strategy consultants have started their next blog series which goes out every Wednesday. They are also creating a template which will contain guidance and additional resources for employers on writing an inclusive job description. This will come out in one of the weekly newsletter updates. The workforce strategy consultants hold regional calls which are monthly or quarterly. Employers interested in joining those calls can email their workforce strategy consultant or Jackie Buck to receive the joining information. Innovative new ideas, like drive-thru job fairs, have been heard on these calls. Another new idea about sharing employees between two businesses to avoid layoffs. Any other ideas about avoiding layoffs should be sent to your regional Rapid Response specialist.

EDAM – Winter events are coming up. One will have a speaker from the Federal Reserve. EDAM has also been pushing their members to contact legislators in support of passing a bonding bill.

MAPCED – Still focusing on CARES Act expenditures. Sharing resources with AMC on their CARES Act resources page to share projects/ideas/advice between counties.

Local Initiatives –

- **Dakota/Scott:** Recently sent a survey to employer list. 61% of respondents said they were hiring. Scott County did a similar survey and similar numbers of employers responded. Many of the jobs currently hiring are \$13-16/hour which is not a livable wage. Even though there are plans for upskilling, this wage even temporarily isn't viable for many people. Bus tour has been moved virtually.

- **Duluth:** Virtual hiring events, including a healthcare event with Zoom breakout rooms with jobseekers and employers. Hospitality and transportation events are coming soon. Youth-focused entrepreneur sessions are coming up. NCLEX-RN is an exam that registered nurses need to take, but there are not many testing sites around Minnesota which is causing problems.
- **Minneapolis:** Working with DEED and MN Computers for Schools plus some employers for a tailgate-like career fair. Virtual job fairs have been doing live polling during the events to give a sense that there is a broad range of jobseekers in attendance – they are seeing more employers looking for mid-career professionals. They have been using the Polly app with Teams to collect audience questions for employers.
- **Anoka:** Updating DW orientation into a YouTube video. Anticipating DW surge but have not seen it yet.
- **Central Minnesota JTS:**
- **Southwest Minnesota:** They are looking into courses for the fall and are jumping back into work experiences. Expecting a ramp up in DW services. Also holding an event for employers about engaging with youth.

What's Needed for Employers?

- In general: how do we best serve employers? Diversity, equity, and inclusion is on the top of everyone's mind. Employers want to do a good job but they don't know how. What organizational tools can be put in place to assist businesses with this?
- Lots of businesses in Minneapolis which were destroyed by riots are rebuilding but are looking for temporary places until then.

September Meeting Items

- Minnesota Chamber Study Results
- Discussion on the impact seen by the end of the \$600 bonus to Unemployment Insurance (if the bonus ends)
- Transitioning people back to work: what do employers need?

Next meeting: September 10, 2020