



Business Services/Economic Development Committee

April 18th, 2024, 9:30-11:30am

The committee was called to order at 9:33 am.

Employer-Related Updates: Items Pertinent to Employers or Employer Services

- M State
- Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM)
- Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED)
 - Briana Mumme is no longer president of MAPCED, Vince Robinson has taken over as president and Mark Jeffers has taken over as vice president.
 - Many members are hosting workforce summits, focused around onboarding and employee retention trainings.
- State Agencies
 - DEED
 - Rerunning CareerForce & More series for employers, May 2nd – May 30th on Thursdays. For employers to learn more about the CareerForce system. ****registration information coming soon****
 - Talking to HR folks in Minnesota who are learning more about the CareerForce system and what the system can do for them.
 - Sitting on a few workforce development projects - [Surface Mount Technology Association Upper Midwest](#) event June 4/5th at Union Depot for Workforce Development
 - DoLI
 - In the middle of the dual training grant application cycle.
 - Pursuing federal funding opportunity for registered apprenticeships.
 - Youth skills training grant recipients were announced yesterday (17 awardees)
 - VRS
 - CVS struggling to find pharmacy techs, VRS is working on a pharmacy tech training program. Working with other pharmacies for other partnerships. First training begins in May
 - GoMN grant for folks going into sub/minimum wage. This is starting in Duluth
 - ERAF is still available, please continue to spread the word to employers needing accommodations.
 - Talking about October as National Disability Awareness Month, Hennepin is considering doing a job fair.
- Local Areas
 - Rural Minnesota CEP
 - Hired a new regional coordinator and was an existing CEP employee
 - In the midst of job fair season

- Working on developing more incumbent worker training with a new staff member onboard
 - Working on regional plan & IFA
- City of Duluth
- City of Lakeville
- Central Minnesota (CMJTS)
 - Busy with incumbent worker requests, submitted for modification to get more funds
 - Doing additional IWE consultations
 - Drafting regional plan and about to go to board before it is open for public comment
 - Many hiring events coming up and going on
 - Helping youth team to identify employers engaging with summer camps
- Southwest Minnesota
 - Been very busy with events, job fairs, job shadows
 - Got Robotics/STEM grant, Drive for 5, and other grants coming in the door
- Southeast Minnesota (WDI)
 - Busy with incumbent worker training, after a growth of awareness
 - Expanding reach for training providers, employers, employees for a variety of training
 - Hosting reverse job fairs after success from that
 - Workforce development forum next week that will include networking, panels, keynotes, and awards
 - Awaiting additional comments on local and regional plans prior to submitting
- Hennepin-Carver
- City of Minneapolis
 - Working on a new Office of Apprenticeship outreach that will be available metro-wide and state-wide. Working across partners to help folks get connected to apprenticeships. Coordinator has been hired and trainings will be available online and recorded.
 - Place-based hiring initiatives about businesses in different geographic areas of the city.
 - A few events coming up, employer connecting events in partnership with Chamber that will include topics relevant to employers.
- Anoka County
- Ramsey County
 - Youth job fair coming up but there is difficulty getting employer engagement
 - Tech month events in May, including a Green Careers expo and other events for jobseekers, trainers, and employers
 - Hosting an open house “Cert Connect” for small businesses to learn about opportunities to contract with Ramsey County
- Dakota-Scott
- Stearns-Benton (Career Solutions)
 - Facilities Maintenance Pathways to Prosperity Program: 8-week training course offered through SCTCC Customized Training starting early June.
 - McKinley ALC Job Fair: Career Solutions is hosting on May 3rd at McKinley High School

- Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program: Busy with new employer IWT projects
- CareerONE Summer Youth Program: Recruitment efforts underway
- Working on Local/Regional plans
- Washington County (Rick)
 - Launching IWE program soon
 - Business summit next week
 - Industrial Park childcare center may be coming soon after a survey of employers and community
 - Gold line is being extended into Woodbury, a new hub will be put in off of 494, where a comprehensive center will be moved to
- Northwest PIC

Featured Topic: The committee heard a presentation on the article “[What New University of Minnesota Extension Research Reveals About Business Owners’ Plans for the Future Transition of Their Firms](#)” from authors Michael Darger (UMN Extension) and Cameron Macht (DEED). The presentation can be accessed at this link: <https://mawb-mn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Presentation-to-MN-Association-of-Workforce-Boards-ED-and-Biz-Services-Committee.pptx>

- <https://mn.gov/deed/data/current-econ-highlights/monthly-snapshot.jsp>
- The research on BST: <https://z.umn.edu/BSTresearch>
- The general BST site: <https://extension.umn.edu/community-development/supporting-business-succession-and-transition>
- YouTube BST channel: <https://z.umn.edu/BSTvideos>
- [Department of Community Development - Data Dashboards \(google.com\)](#)
- UMN Extension Entrepreneur Specialist contact Neil Linscheid: lins0041@umn.edu

The committee concluded at 11:36 am.