



Business Services/Economic Development Committee

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

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

Featured Topic: The committee heard an EDAM Legislative Update presentation from Scott Marquard, Government Relations Chair for EDAM & President of the Southwest Initiative Foundation.

Featured Topic: The committee heard a presentation on a recently published article: "[The effects of the pandemic across the state are starting to show up in the data](#)" from Kelly Asche, who is a Senior Researcher at the Center for Rural Policy & Development. Please find the full presentation at this [link](#).

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)
 - Family Child Care Center proposed regulations are the primary hot topic for MAPCED.
- State Agencies
 - DEED
 - RETAIN
 - The program is shifting out of 'sustainability' phase and is now enrolling new folks with the goal of enrolling 200 new participants.
 - DoLI
 - VRS
 - Working on a caravan event across the state to highlight employers hiring employees with disabilities.
 - Other events in partnership with chambers are being developed for October.
 - Pharmacy Tech training program has concluded – 9 people started, 9 people finished with everyone recommended for hiring.
- Local Areas
 - Rural Minnesota CEP
 - City of Duluth
 - Convening a manufacturing working group to learn from employers.
 - Holding monthly job fairs (have been hosting for a year or so now).
 - P2P Grants are being worked on – "Introduction to Human Services" is an upcoming training and it is being delivered in partnership with local Tribal Nations.
 - City of Lakeville
 - Working with the Chamber of Commerce on the Lakeville Works program (connects students to STEM careers) received a large grant and has been doing programming this summer.

- Central Minnesota (CMJTS)
 - Inclusive Employer program continues to be busy.
 - Incumbent worker program continues to be busy.
 - Hoping to start a state-wide registered apprenticeship working group.
 - Doing many outreach events.
- Southwest Minnesota
- Southeast Minnesota (WDI)
- Hennepin-Carver
- City of Minneapolis
 - Apprenticeship outreach office will be open later this summer.
- Anoka County
- Ramsey County
 - The midway job fair was hosted on 6/26 with 40 employers, over 400 jobseekers.
 - Planning for manufacturing month has begun in partnership with local chambers and businesses. Also creating a toolkit for employers on what they can do for manufacturing month.
 - Inclusive employer toolkit has been updated to reflect skills based hiring and recruiting/retention efforts.
 - MN Skills Based Hiring accelerator half day workshops are being held across the metro. Next workshop on 7/30.
- Dakota-Scott
- Stearns-Benton (Career Solutions)
 - CareerOne Summer Youth program is well underway.
 - Incumbent worker training program continues to be very busy.
 - Planning is underway for the Drive for 5 Grant – focused on manufacturing.
 - Presenting on I-WE program at a DEI summit this fall in partnership with Chamber.
 - Epic event (high school event) is this October.
 - Will be at the Benton County Fair in partnership with CMJTS.
- Washington County
 - Business engagement events continue to be successful.
 - Working on a child care center in an industrial park area in Cottage Grove.
- Northwest PIC

The committee concluded at 11:00 am.