



Business Services/Economic Development Committee

January 16th, 2024, 9:30-11:30am

The committee was called to order at 9:32 am.

Featured Topic: The committee heard a presentation on the new DEED Employment Engagement Team from Liz Jennings, Employer Engagement Supervisor – Career Force, Department of Employment & Economic Development.

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)
- State Agencies
 - DEED
 - State Rapid Response layoff flyer sent out. Feel free to share it with all businesses regardless of size.
 - New CF Location in Brooklyn Center/Park.
 - Small Business competitive Grant: Transformative Career Pathway - Diversity and Inclusion for Small Employers Competitive Grants - <https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/open-rfp.jsp#12>
 - MN Works Replacement Project update meetings monthly.
 - VRS
 - Starting 2nd Pharmacy Tech training course for folks with disabilities – 8 folks starting across the state
 - DLI
 - Industries forums coming up in early February – talking about 10 new occupations to be added across industries.
 - Youth skills training grant is open now.
 - Registered apprenticeship team has many events coming up for the next few weeks.
 - [Youth Skills Training Program | Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry](#)
 - [Pipeline events | Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry](#)
 - [News and events | Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry](#)
 - RETAIN
 - Updated State DW eligibility expansion is also available to access RETAIN program.
 - Finalizing application to Mayo Clinic to start enrolling DW individuals.
- Local Areas
 - Rural Minnesota CEP
 - City of Duluth
 - Workforce solutions series just wrapped up. Had a presentation for resources for new Americans.

- Hosting monthly job fairs with 45 job seekers at the last meeting. Partnering with city to offer an onsite hiring event in the spring.
 - Participating in the upcoming registered apprenticeship workshops.
 - Updated Diversity and Inclusion Employer Action Guide is available at [Diversity & Inclusion Employer Action Guide](#)
- City of Lakeville
- Central Minnesota (CMJTS)
 - Working with Career Solutions on marketing flier for Central Minnesota Workforce Solutions – DEI resources/tools, general resources for employers, wellness presenter, DEED grants available, incumbent worker trainings on 3/7 8:30am-12pm.
 - Hiring event happening today.
 - Employer presenting on providing transportation for employees.
 - Looking forward for participating in upcoming registered apprenticeship workshops.
 - Providing training for employers for IWT.
- Southwest Minnesota
- Southeast Minnesota (WDI)
 - Some recent layoffs in the area – 60 employers & 1,700 employees impacted by layoffs.
 - Working on “best places to work” survey across the region. Winners announced in April.
 - New IWT including leadership and new equipment trainings.
 - Shared new [Workforce Engagement Toolkit](#).
- Hennepin-Carver
- City of Minneapolis
 - Apprenticeship office is up and running & engaged with DLI cohort.
- Anoka County
- Ramsey County
 - A few job fairs coming up soon – Artist job fair in February, environmental jobs/resources
 - Curious about IWT for ELL training
- Dakota-Scott
- Stearns-Benton (Career Solutions)
 - Held hiring event yesterday.
 - Met with 5 manufacturing employers to discuss Drive for 5 Grant training opportunities.
 - New employer sponsors for CDL training day.
 - New incumbent worker training projects coming in.
 - Many leadership/management/supervisory trainings for IWT.
 - DEI event coming up in partnership with CMJTS.
 - Annual meeting on 2/13.
 - HR networking group meets next the first week of February.
 - Shared video on DW program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slns1vFUxAU>
- Washington County
- Northwest PIC

- Winona County
 - Some recent layoffs in the county.
 - Working with local high school to host a career/college/job fair.

The committee concluded at 10:25 am.