

ANOKA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**Thursday, February 4, 2021
7:30 A.M.**

WebEx

***** A G E N D A *****

- I. ROLL CALL**

- II. APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

- III. APPROVE January 7, 2021 MEETING MINUTES (Attached)**

- IV. APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - OPIOID MINNESOTA INITIATIVE (OMNI) GRANT (see attached)**

- V. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AGREEMENT UPDATE**

- VI. INITIAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON MINNESOTA BUSINESSES – Tim O’Neill, DEED Labor Market Analyst**

- VII. OTHER BUSINESS & PARTNER UPDATES**
 - **Executive Director Report**
 - **Governor’s Budget Proposal**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- **LAUS Update**

ANOKA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Important Meeting Notice

Due to Governor's Emergency Executive Order 20-30, and a determination by the county board chair that public attendance was not feasible due to the health pandemic, members of the public were not allowed to attend this meeting in person. Public members were able to monitor this meeting through Webex (information posted on website). Public monitoring in this manner is done pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.021.th. The board sets priorities and policies that focus on local workforce needs and ensure that programs and agencies work together to meet those needs. The goal is to create a responsive workforce development system for both employers and job seekers.

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, January 7, 2021

The Anoka County Workforce Development Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Barnes at 7:30 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shirley Barnes, Shym Cook, Jacquell Hajder, Terry Hart, Lori Higgins, Paul Johnson, KC Kye, Jessica Lipa, Patrick McFarland, Jerry Miller, Jim Nimlos, Stacie Sayre, Theresa Zingery

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Mandy Meisner, Brad Thiel, Becky White, Dorothy Radermacher, Coleen Haubner, Aston Ramsammy, Joan Berning, Nicole Swanson, Krista Peterson

II. APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Lori Higgins to adopt the Agenda. Seconded by Patrick McFarland.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL VOTING AYE, CHAIR BARNES DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. APPROVE December 3, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Theresa Zingery to approve the minutes are presented. Seconded by Patrick McFarland.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL VOTING AYE, CHAIR BARNES DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. APPROVE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA 12 INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AGREEMENT (IFA) – Nicole Swanson, Director, Job Training Center and Becky White, Business Operations Manager, Job Training Center

There has been a change to the Agenda as the local partnership is not ready to move forward for an approval of the IFA. This agreement is a requirement from WIOA and all partners in the one-stop are to complete an IFA every three years. There are 19 required one-stop partner programs detailed in

WIOA law that are required to participate in IFA negotiations and contributions if they are present within a LWDA. The State requires SNAP Employment & Training to be part of this list for IFA's to be acceptable. Native American Programs must participate in MOU negotiations, but they are not required to make any IFA contributions. Required program partners include WIOA Title I, WIOA Title II, WIOA Title III, WIOA Title IV, OAA (Older Americans Act), Title V – SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training, Career & Technical Education Programs (post-secondary), Trade Adjustment Assistance, Jobs for Veterans State Grants, Community Services Block Grant Employment & Training, Housing & Urban Development Employment & Training, Unemployment Compensation, Second Chance Act Grants, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) – Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

IFA negotiations with Wagner-Peyser continue with discussions centered around the universal participant cost sharing. It is being asked that the Title IB programs the Job Training Center administers on behalf of the board take on more costs in this area which are not currently budgeted. State data supports the CareerForce in Blaine is the busiest location in the State.

Shirley asked if the change in sharing the cost would result in a fewer number of people being served.

Nicole replied that it takes \$600,000-\$690,000 to provide one-stop services and if we were to shift and take on 2/3 of that cost, that would make a significant dent in the number of people we serve in the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs. We are awaiting funds from other grants like the Opioid and National Emergency Grant for dislocated workers and would use allowable funds to support this however it will not cover the funding gap.

Becky noted that 50% of the allocation that is received for dislocated worker and adult programs is required to be allocated to training for enrolled participants. That requirement reduces the amount available for staffing and other associated costs.

Joan Berning, Regional DEED Manager, agreed that this is a change and DEED is looking at WIOA language and DOL did a visit with the State of MN and requested some changes with partners and their contributions. The WIOA language states that those who serve universal customers should have proportional costs over programs and may contribute to support such customers.

Commissioner Meisner asked if they were looking beyond the standard of taking away from services and staff and if in the future more funding may be available to help.

Nicole replied that the current IFA ended 12/31/2020 and moving forward we replicated that same structure based on the current budget cycles, partner discussions and included information from other one-stop operators like in-kind contributions. Right now, we are providing services virtually and are having continued conversations about returning to the workplace. The vision is that people will return and a combination of both virtual and in-person services will be offered.

Joan replied that some areas have been working on this for quite some time in regard to sharing equitable costs and other areas have not. Statewide IFA conversations are starting, and they are looking at everyone's budgets.

Shirley asked where the funds were going to be reinvested.

Joan replied that the funds are not being reinvested. Each program would receive proportionable benefits, so it is being spread out.

Shirley said that we want to work with DEED to serve people who are unemployed and dislocated workers, our primary goal is to employ people.

Joan agreed that staff are passionate when working with customers and can't say enough about our frontline staff who are working hard to get people employed. We have to make this IFA work among the partners. We want to make sure customers are served and get the best service possible.

Jerry Miller said that this would reduce services and every local area will be different. By mandating that every local area does the same doesn't allow the local areas to do their jobs. He asked how local areas can be forced to change their contribution when all areas are different.

Joan replied that Wagner-Peyser is not trying to use a cookie cutter approach and local areas can come up with ways to look at proportionate costs. It doesn't have to be 50% but we are trying to look at a different way's costs are allocated.

V. EASY VIRTUAL FAIR UPDATE AND DEMONSTRATION – Krista Peterson, Job Training Center, Office Manager

The first easy virtual fair launch was on November 18th with around 40 career seekers attending and 30 employers. In 2021, weekly events are scheduled the first four Wednesdays of every month with the exception of November. Career seekers and employers are finding the easy virtual fair easy to navigate and staff have received compliments about how professional it looks. CARES ACT funding was used to purchase a subscription through September 2021. <https://anokacounty.easyvirtualfair.com>

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- Executive Director Report - Nicole
Report attached

Jacquel shared information about additional business supports, \$6,982,490, and that the application should be ready next week. Grants are between \$15,000 and \$45,000. More businesses should be eligible for this than the CARES ACT funding. Information can be found at www.anokacountysuccess.org.

ADJOURN

Chair Barnes declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.



Executive Director Summary December 2020

Local and Regional Planning and Communication

- Weekly metro director calls on COVID-19 planning, program impacts, best practices and resources.
- Discussions on local and metro Easy Virtual Fair hiring events implementation and programming.
- Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) Operations Chair focused on statewide workforce development programming impact, partnering and policies.
- Participated in the MAWB and Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) annual meeting.
- Implemented successful Cares Act programming for transportation, virtual services and Job Training Center and CareerForce in Blaine virtual programming and services.
- Expanded JTC and CareerForce marketing with local libraries, food shelves and community-based organizations.
- Health Care Month Coordination with the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and MAWB.
- Coordinated kick-off of quarterly statewide 2021 partner meetings with MAWB, Job Service (Wagner-Peyser), Vocational Rehabilitation Services and State Services for the Blind.

Policy

- Participated in weekly DEED Economic and Workforce Development calls and infrastructure funding agreement meetings.
- Participated in DEED's Workforce Development Fund Proposal Discussion on 12/21/20 and ongoing MAWB Legislative and Operations WDF proposal discussions, business education, advocacy and recommendations.

Operations

- Represent MAWB Operations in monthly meeting with Marc Majors focused on MAWB and DEED workplan implementation.
- Participated in MAWB Policies and Issues, MAWB Job Seeker Services (Co-Chair), and Operation Committee (Chair) meetings to discuss operation items such as WIOA Infrastructure Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding.
- Discussions with DEED of the rollout of the National Emergency Grant (NEG) Opioid funds awarded to MN 12/16/20 and NEG Dislocated Worker awarded 6/20. Awaiting information from DEED.
- Infrastructure Funding Agreement planning and development meetings with partners and ongoing planning and negotiations with DEED.

Working With People To Improve Lives



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Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider

National Emergency Disaster Recovery Grant Opioid Minnesota Initiative (OMNI) February 2021

Background

Anoka County Job Training Center (ACJTC) participated in a \$1.3 M Department of Labor National Health Emergency Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant application with the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) as a subgrantee. Other workforce development area applicants in the State include Duluth, Central Minnesota/Stearns-Benton and Southeastern Minnesota. This grant's purpose is to address the Opioid Crisis impacting our local, regional, state workforce due to its widespread impact on individuals, families, businesses and our community's well-being.

The primary focus will be serving the individuals affected by the crisis through integrated career exploration, employment, reemployment and training funding, On-the-Job Training and support services. A secondary focus will be to train dislocated workers to work in a capacity to reduce the impact on the healthcare, allied health and public safety systems as well as providing services during the COVID-19 pandemic by responding to workforce needs and industries in demand as a response to the economic recovery post-pandemic.

This grant application complements other initiatives in the County which aim to rescue the effects of the opioid crisis on our residents. These initiatives are in the areas of Chemical Health and Community Health and Behavioral Health departments and the Court System. Another example pairs Community Corrections with Community Social Services that deliver an Enhanced Treatment Program (ETP) designed to serve mothers at risk of losing their children due to chemical use and criminal activity.

In addition, Allina Health has outpatient programs at their Unity and Cambridge campuses focused on treatment and life/work balances that go hand in hand with treatment. Both as partner in treatment services and as a local employer looking for a trained talent pool of healthcare.

Project Scope

Total funding awarded to Anoka County is \$360,000 with the initial funding of \$210,462 to serve 72 dislocated workers of which 12 will be placed in disaster relief positions in nursing assistance, call center representatives, human services, chemical dependency and 911 dispatch.

Project Partners

- Anoka County Human Services Departments – Community Corrections, Social Services and Public Health Nursing
- Allina Health
- Stepping Stone Emergency Housing
- Hope for Youth and Hope Place
- Anoka Technical College and Anoka Ramsey Community College

