

ANOKA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**Thursday, January 7, 2021
7:30 A.M.**

WebEx

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

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

III. APPROVE December 3, 2020 MEETING MINUTES (Attached)

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

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

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Executive Director Report**
- **Partner Updates**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- **LAUS Update**

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, December 3, 2020

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, Elaina Bleifield, Shym Cook, Jacquell Hajder, Lori Higgins, Curt Jasper, Becky Johnson, Paul Johnson, KC Kye, Patrick McFarland, Jim Nimlos, Stacie Sayre, Michael Thews, Theresa Zingery

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Scott Schulte, Commissioner Mandy Meisner, Tim O'Neill, David Schultz, Hamse Warfa, Brad Thiel, Cindy Cesare, Nicole Swanson, Krista Peterson

II. APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Jim Nimlos to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Theresa Zingery.

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

III. APPROVE November 5, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Theresa Zingery to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Elaina Bleifield.

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

IV. 2020 ELECTIONS AND WORKFORCE – David Schultz, Professor and Political Expert – Hamline University

- Joe Biden is the next president of the United States. Votes and outcomes matter to the people who are the policy makers.
- In early 1960's we were equally divided as a country far worse than today. Today we divide in a partisan and polarized way upon a range of issues in terms of the economy, social justice and LGBTQ.
- This election came down to 7 states, 11 counties and 10% of the swing voters to decide the election.
- Biden won by about 80,000 votes in three states like President Trump did four years ago.

- Democrats anticipated picking up seats in the house, they lost some. The senate is closely divided. In Minnesota we entered the race with republicans holding the senate and democrats holding the house. We exit as the only state with partisan split control of the state legislature.
- January 5 voting takes place for two U.S. senate seats in Georgia. Right now, democrats hold 48 seats in the U.S. senate, republicans hold 50. The Georgia race will decide everything. Biden has a marginal opportunity to move on policy issues. If republicans control the senate it will be harder. With democrats holding the house, and republicans holding the senate, there will probably not be any significant measure of policy moves.
- What does this all mean for 2021 and beyond for the state and nation? Given this divided government, no significant change is expected in policy and they will remain status quo. There will be a bail out of some sort due to the pandemic and not sure if it will target individuals or businesses, address unemployment, local government units, school districts, or workforce training funds.

Question: Doesn't MN have a "rainy day" fund?

Yes, that will help a little, but the budget will still need to be balanced by June 2021. If the pandemic continues to rise, we could go into another tailspin and the surplus could disappear.

Question: How do we become less polarized?

Part of polarization is being driven by the political conflict between baby boomers, rising millennials and gen z. Over the next 10 years there will be a replacement with new people.

Question: What can Biden do to address the economic issue?

The gap between the rich and poor is the greatest it's been in a long time. Economic anxiety and insecurity are driving this gap. Public policy is needed to address these issues.

Question: FOX news and CNN are so different, how much of that drives people apart?

Social media is worse at this point and the false news is horrible. People need to find good sources of information and check if the news is real or false.

V. MOVING FROM ECONOMIC CRISIS TO RECOVERY – Deputy Commissioner Hamse Warfa – Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

- Where are we on economic recovery? Some states are already in the recovery phase and others haven't started yet. The forecasted reports this week were better than anticipated, with a \$1.4B-\$1.6B deficit it is better than originally forecasted. Final forecasting will be available in February.
- Job growth is slower than we anticipated. At the beginning of the year we prioritized areas and creating family sustaining income was an important goal to move 40,000 families to a sustaining income of \$55,400 for family of 4. This goal was announced in March and due to COVID-19 is delayed. The impact of unemployment made the case stronger to focus on family sustaining income as an important initiative. We are exploring structures and systems to support this goal.
- The Workforce Development Fund was established in the 1980's and we may be the only state that has their own dislocated worker program supported by this fund. The original intent of the fund and today's workforce needs are not in full alignment. Childcare, transportation, mental health issues, and housing are all critical components to successful workforce development. Discussions are taking place with various stakeholders to look at making adjustments to the use of this fund as DEED is working on a proposal for the 2021 legislative session.

- Equities and inclusion are high priorities. Recently Commissioner Anisa Hajimumin was hired to fully to support this work, to look at key barriers' immigrants in our State face. Language continues to be a significant barrier and some immigrants come to the U.S. with credentials like in the medical field and there is no pathway to get a license here. We need to capitalize on these talents that exist in our State.

Question: How will local CareerForce centers and local boards throughout the state help with the efforts of workforce development in MN along with DEED?

This week an email was sent to 481,000 unemployment insurance recipients to invite them to CareerForce resources. CareerForce will be vital in the coming months as we see more people looking for services. CareerForce partners work together to address common challenges and find solutions throughout the communities. A lot of people are asking when CareerForce centers will open for those not able to access virtual services, but without a vaccine and COVID not under control, it is challenging to offer in-person services.

Question: Those working in healthcare where COVID cases are skyrocketing knew this surge would be worse than the last surge. How do we get more healthcare workers when there are no clinical sites available?

This issue has come up a number of times and other states are experiencing the same thing. We continue to try and come up with solutions to this issue.

Question: How are we getting employer feedback on the proposed changes on the use of the Workforce Development Fund?

We are engaging businesses through local chambers with planned meetings coming soon throughout the state. This fund is from a tax assessed to employers and no steps will be taken without engaging stakeholders in the process, so we are in alignment with ways to improve the system. Today's workforce development challenges are unique and need unique solutions.

Question: Due to unemployment no apprenticeships are happening at this time. Will DEED look into other industries than just service industries to receive assistance?

The economic impact isn't evenly distributed, and all industries are impacted in different ways. The hospitality and service industry were most impacted but defining the service industry is broad. If anyone has any thoughts for reskilling the workforce, please send to Hamse.

VI. TIM TALK – FEATURING Q2 2020 INDUSTRY DATA – Tim O'Neill, Labor Market Analyst – Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

- April/May/June Anoka County had 7,955 establishments supplying 113,665 jobs with an average annual wage of \$57,720. 15,605 jobs were lost, (12.1%).
- The past 5 years industry led growth in Anoka County included Healthcare and Social Services followed by Construction and Educational Services. Those industries hit the hardest were Accommodation and Food Services, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation and Health Care and Social Assistance.
- Anoka County unemployment claims were highest in those working in Construction, Food and Beverage Servers and Retail Sales Workers.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Nicole:

- Blaine Human Service Center has received direction to remain closed to the public until March 31, 2021. The Job Training Center and CareerForce continue to provide virtual services.
- The unemployment rate dropped significantly in October, many are going back to work, and others are leaving the workforce. That is concerning when we have a workforce shortage, especially in healthcare.
- The first Easy Virtual Fair was launched on November 18. We experienced good success with around 30 career seekers in attendance. There was a regional event on November 9th that had 90 career seekers. The next Anoka County Easy Virtual Fair is scheduled for December 9.
- Transportation Solutions CARES Act program was extremely successful. We expended over \$135,000, assisted 124 individuals with \$109,767 in repairs and \$25,000 in insurance.
- Jacquell: CARES Act funding for businesses and non-profits was competed on Monday. We served the highest in need, 262 businesses and 61 non-profits for a total of \$835,000. All funds have been exhausted and a list of who we assisted is available to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Barnes declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Anoka County Workforce Development Area 12

Infrastructure Funding Agreement Summary

Background

An infrastructure Funding Agreement (IFA) must be submitted at least every 3 years by Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) for each CareerForce Center (CFC) to ensure that all required one-stop partners are adequately contributing to the costs of Minnesota's one-stop system as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The IFA must be included as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the CFC's Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) (new policy released from DEED 12/1/20). Current IFA timeframe is January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

Required IFA Partners

There are 19 required one-stop partner programs detailed WIOA law 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. See required program partners below:

- WIOA Title I – Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth and YouthBuild, Job Corps, Native American programs, and Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker programs.
- WIOA Title II – Adult Education and Family Literacy
- WIOA Title III – Wagner-Peyser
- WIOA Title IV – Vocational Rehabilitation Services/State Services for the Blind
- 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
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) – Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

Contents of an IFA

An IFA must contain an annual estimated budget for the operations of the CFC and an agreement on how the budget will be paid by each required partner. The IFA must include both the infrastructure costs and any additional costs incurred as part of the operating system which all partners must contribute. Infrastructure cost examples include rent, utilities/maintenance and additional costs may include personnel costs required to provide basic career services or other non-infrastructure shared cost agreed upon necessary for the operations of the one-stop system.



CareerForce™



Anoka County
JOB TRAINING CENTER

VIRTUAL HIRING EVENT

Wednesday, January 6th
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Create Your Career Profile & Join the Career Fair
at: <https://anokacounty.easyvirtualfair.com>

AND

Register at: <https://www.careerforcemn.com/blaine>

Employers in Attendance:

Ajilon	Garage Doors Plus
Allied Universal	Goodwill-Easter Seals
Anoka-Hennepin School District	MN MN Dept. of Corrections
Apex Health Care	MN Dept. of Transportation
Benedictine	National Able/IT Career Lab
DIE Technology & Nanotech Precision	Schwieters Companies
Health System Community Living Options	SMX I Staff Management (nVent)
Crest View Senior Communities	USIC
Dungarvin	Walker Methodist
FedEx Freight	White Pine & Grace Senior Living
First Student	

Employer list subject to change without notice.

Visit <https://www.anokacounty.us/3993/Virtual-Hiring-Events>
for an updated list of employers in attendance.

- Join with your cell phone or computer.
- Talk virtually with employers through Chat and Video.
- Upload and exchange your resume with potential employers.
- Need help updating your resume or brushing up interviewing skills? Register for a one-on-one appointment at www.careerforcemn.com/blaine or call 763-324-2300.

Building Tomorrow's Workforce

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For accessible formats of this publication call 763-324-2300 or use your preferred relay service.

