

ANOKA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Thursday, November 4, 2021
7:30 A.M.

ANOKA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICE CENTER
1201 89TH AVENUE NORTHEAST
BLAINE, MN 55434
SUITE 202

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

- I. ROLL CALL**

 - II. APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

 - IV. MINNESOTA STATE DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER - CURRENT LANDSCAPE and PROJECTIONS – Dr. Eric Guthrie, Senior Demographer**

 - V. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS OFFICE – WORKING WITH ARRIVING AFGHAN EVACUEES – Patricia Fenrick, Refugee Workforce Development and Outreach Specialist**

 - VI. ANOKA COUNTY SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership) – Cole Hanson, SHIP Health Educator**

 - VII. OTHER BUSINESS**
 - Executive Director Update
 - Partner Sharing
- INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**
- 2022 Meeting Schedule
 - LAUS Report - September

ANOKA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, October 7, 2021

The Anoka County Workforce Development Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Barnes at 7:30 a.m. and new members were welcomed to the meeting.

I. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shirley Barnes, Elaina Bleifield, Debby Boyd, Shym Cook, Leslie Greves, K.C. Kye, Brian Laplante, Samantha Markman, Patrick McFarland, Jennifer Mudge, Jim Nimlos, Stacie Sayre, Theresa Zingery

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Mandy Meisner, Lindsey Horowitz, Judy Nagel, Allana Walsh, Tim O’Neill, Nicole Swanson, Krista Peterson, Mary Rohr

II. APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Theresa Zingery to adopt the Agenda. Seconded by Elaina Bleifield.

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

III. APPROVE September 2, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Jim Nimlos to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Theresa Zingery.

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

IV. PROJECT SEARCH - Lindsey Horowitz, Post-Secondary Transition Specialist – Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Judy Nagel, Special Education Program Supervisor – Anoka-Hennepin Schools, and Allana Walsh, Special Education Program Supervisor – Anoka-Hennepin Schools

- Students work 16+ hours per week to obtain competitive, integrated employment within 4-11 months after completion of their work experience.
- Serve all disability levels and participants are typically unemployed with developmental cognitive disorders ages 18-21.
- The work coordinator matches the student to the worksite to expose them to different work experiences.
- Participants work on employability skills in the classroom such as team building, self-advocacy and preparing for employment.
- Most participants do not drive but are able to take public transportation to the work site.
- The pay structure is an unpaid work experience.
- Work sites are preferred to have 500+ employees but may look at smaller sites (200+ employees) if there are enough work experience rotations available.

- October is National Disabilities Month so a perfect time to promote this program and connect with employers in the metro area.
- Looking for support and help identifying host businesses for all school districts to participate in Project Search. Lindsey.jo.horowitz@state.mn.us, Judith.nagel@ahschools.us, allana.walsh@ahschools.us.

V. ANOKA COUNTY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Samantha Markman, Director – ACRED Anoka County

- Anoka County has 21 municipalities, is over 400 square miles with population over 350,000, the 4th largest county in MN. Median HH Income is \$82,175.
- ACRED goals and initiatives are to address and work to change the perception of Anoka County, ensure Anoka County is ready for development for both a talent and product perspective and define roles within the county and regional partners as it relates to economic development.
- Target industries include light and heavy manufacturing, distribution and trucking, data and technology centers and back office and support staff.
- The MN Technology Corridor is thankful for Connexus Energy’s leadership and the premier sites include Columbus, Centerville, and Lino Lakes.
- Community Spotlights in Blaine include the developments on Lexington & 109th, Nassau & 105th and I-35W & County Road J.
- COVID-19 Recovery Efforts – American Rescue Plan allocated \$3M to broadband. The Federal Economic Development Administration allocated \$3B for economic development in Anoka County. DEED Community Development Finance Institution grew programs like Open to Business that offers assistance to entrepreneurs with technology.
- Upcoming events include UpRiver Real Estate Event November 18th from 9-11:30 a.m. Anoka County Business Summit the first week in December, and the MNCAR Commercial Real Estate Expo on October 27th.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- **DEED Press Release - Job Growth Continues for August – Tim O’Neill**
 - MN gained 4,300 jobs in August. Industries that gained jobs in August included manufacturing, leisure & hospitality, trade, transportation & utilities, financial activities, professional & business services, and construction.
 - COVID-19 has resulted in an acceleration in people retiring and MN is experiencing the Great Resignation and the Silver Tsunami.
 - Monthly employment releases are available from DEED and reach out to Tim for any specific data requests. Timothy.Oneill@state.mn.us
- **Executive Director Update – Nicole Swanson**
 - Commissioner Schulte and Anoka County leadership highlighted a proclamation for September as Workforce Development Month.
 - The Career Lab in Blaine opened August 16th and has assisted close to 500 individuals.
 - JTC staff returned to onsite work this week and continue to offer virtual services with exception of the Career Lab. Business practices are changing as staff transition to working a hybrid model (part in-office/part remote). In 2022 all JTC staff will merge to second floor reducing our footprint in the building and staff sharing work areas.

- Goal for in-person hiring events to return in 2022 and regional virtual hiring events will continue.
- The IFA with DEED that the board approved in February is still in negotiations.
- October is Manufacturing Month.

- **Partner and member Updates**
 - DEED staff continue to work on the Good Jobs Now campaign and have made 75,000 calls to UI customers connecting with around 50% of customers. Staff are also meeting with customers to assist with their job search; 59 appointments were scheduled/39 appointments showed up.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Elaina Bleifield to adjourn. Seconded by Theresa Zingery.

The motion CARRIED and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

2022
ANOKA COUNTY
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING SCHEDULE
Time: 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Thursday, May 5, 2022

Thursday, June 2, 2022

July – No Meeting

August – No Meeting

Thursday, September 1, 2022

Thursday, October 6, 2022

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Thursday, December 1, 2022

