



## **Workforce System Network Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Members present:** Committee Chair, Stacy Snider, Latricia Fennell, Kevin Gruenwald, Diana Salazar, Vance Read

**Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Virtual Only**

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- **One-Stop Operator Report for PY23**

The one-stop operator for the region, focusing on employment statistics and the WorkKeys testing program for employers and job centers. Discussion on the Importance of High School Diploma for Employment

Stacy Snider raises concerns about the impact of not having a high school diploma on job opportunities and emphasizes the need to prioritize helping individuals obtain their high school diploma for long-term success. Discusses the declining importance of high school diplomas for employers and the potential impact of age groups on job requirements, highlighting the need for data on age groups to understand the situation better. Discussion on Customer Barriers and Basic Skills Deficiency, in a conversation about the categorization of customer barriers and basic skills deficiency, with a specific emphasis on the absence of high school equivalency as a barrier. We express curiosity about the direction for necessary focus and the need for customers to understand these categorizations.

Gretchen provided updates on the reauthorization process of WIOA and expressed uncertainty about its future given the upcoming presidential election. She also emphasized the significance of mental health awareness, recounting a training session conducted by a licensed clinical social worker for EDSI staff. The session aimed to equip staff with the knowledge and skills to support individuals experiencing mental health crises.

An overview of job center visitors, highlighting that the majority sought unemployment assistance and job search assistance. Additionally, the board discussed employer satisfaction and confidence in the system, noting positive feedback and the importance of customer service in the region.

- **PY24 OSO Strategic Plan**

Gretchen discusses a recap of the year's activities and a strategic plan for the one-stop operator, focusing on objectives, goals, and actions. The plan includes quarterly meetings with required partners, a referral form for agency communication, and a system for tracking and following up on referrals to ensure accountability and effectiveness. Referral form has been updated for all staff to provide services to customers. Workforce Development Board of Southeast MO will follow up with staff to ensure that the referral form is being used and will track the results of referrals made to different agencies.

- **Regional Program Enrollments PY23- EDSI**

Gretchen presented a detailed review of the enrollments and funding for Program Year 23, emphasizing the successful achievement of enrollment targets by EDSI despite funding cuts. They also shared information about additional funding obtained for work experience programs for youth and the importance of participant engagement to ensure program success.

Stacy Snider engaged in a discussion about the enrollment status of in-school youth and the implications for training opportunities. We deliberated on the criteria for enrollment in AEL classes and the impact on the in-school versus out-of-school status. The conversation also touched upon the need to align with state and federal regulations to ensure proper enrollment and compliance with guidelines.

- **WIOA Performance PY23**

Performance was reviewed and compared to the State's performance numbers. WDBSE is currently meeting performance goals in Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth and WP with 90% or above, definitely an increase in numbers since the last report for performance. Gretchen also stated that negotiations for performance should be coming up for the region in late August/ September 2024.

- **WIOA Monitoring Review PY23**

We discuss the findings and areas of concern from the PY23 Program Monitoring by the State. The review resulted in zero findings and two areas of concern. Highlighting the lack of case management and issues with employment plans. The WDB was required to provide OWD a written corrective action outlining case management procedures and additional training be provider to sub-recipient staff. Our response has already been sent to OWD with the following actions: WDBSE Compliance Manager will provide training to subcontractor staff, case load management training will be provided by subcontractor Program Manager, Cathy Harris to EDSI staff, improving participate engagement will be ongoing caseload reviews to be conducted by subcontractor Quality Assurance Specialist. The lack of case management was also observed internally in our SE Local Sub-State monitoring report and discuss the need to address these concerns. The local sub-state monitoring report there were 3 areas of concern send to EDSI. Concern #1- completing the referral process in the system, #2- Employment Plans, #3- improving participant engagement, recommendations for these concerns were also provided to EDSI.

- Committee Chair, Stacy Snider will provide committee update at full board meeting on 7/19/24.
- **Next Meeting** – October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Virtual at 9:00am
- **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn by Kevin Gruenwald, seconded by Stacy Snider, motion carried.