

Youth Committee Meeting Minutes

**Randy Guttenberg, Co-Chair—Youth
Elizabeth Roddy, Co-Chair—Youth
Francis Langer, Board Chair
Laura Cataldo, Past-Chair
Michelle Eilbes, Fred Hebert, Chuck Klein,
Jennifer Klein, Pam Korth,
Melissa Montey, Charles Poches,
Lisa Pollard, Calvin White Eagle, Hugh Wing**

**Thursday, February 2, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Madison Area Technical College
Truax Campus – Room D1630B
1701 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704**

Members Present: Randy Guttenberg, Co-Chair; Elizabeth Roddy, Co-Chair; Michelle Eilbes, Chuck Klein, Jennifer Klein, Francis Langer, Melissa Montey, Charles Poches, Lisa Pollard, Hugh Wing

Staff Present: Seth Lentz, Jackie Hall, Chris Ziegel

Guests Present: Jon Danforth, Julie Enloe

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Roddy called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 2 – Review and Approval of the September 8, 2022 Youth Committee Minutes

Roddy asked for a motion to approve the September 8, 2022 Youth Committee minutes as presented. Poches moved to approve the motion as presented. Guttenberg offered the second. No discussion followed on this motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Agenda Item 3 – Grants and Program Updates

Lentz directed Members to the Grants Summary handout, provided a brief update on Adult and Dislocated Worker programming grants, and motioned for Wing to provide grant updates from the City of Madison.



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Wing summarized the City's efforts on youth programming. The National League of Cities (NLC) Youth Excel Fellowship grant was awarded to the City of Madison and provides youth with equal access of education and training for those interested in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) industries. The \$150,000, two-year grant is a partnership between the City of Madison, UW Health, Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison Area Technical College, and WDBSCW. The grant will target Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) youth within Dane County. The grant has provided the City of Madison the opportunity to further invest into community-based organizations. These include Maydm which provides girls and youth of color in grades 6 -12 with the skills, experiences, and connections to pursue careers in and change the face of STEM, as well as Sustain Dane, focusing on green technologies and solar engineering.

Lentz added these offerings are in alignment with WIOA In-School Youth (ISY), Dane County Schools Consortium, and the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards' Youth Apprenticeship.

Hugh noted the NLC encourages tracking of youth throughout their education.

Hugh spoke on the Cities of Financial Empowerment Fund awarded to the City of Madison to help support youth aging out of foster care. Funding is provided for six months of planning, and 18 months of implementation to introduce supportive financial empowerment for youth aging out of foster care, seeking independence. The opportunity provides banking support in collaboration with Summit Credit Union as well as expansion of summer youth employment. The funding also provides supports of up to 20 hours of counseling for each eligible youth.

Lentz requested confirmation the offering was applicable to the city last year.

Hugh confirmed CFE have provided the City this opportunity for two years. Prior metrics include partnering with twelve community-based organizations, offered over 800 youth the opportunity for financial education, opened over 500 noncustodial bank accounts. Prior sessions have been administered in partnership with UW Credit Union and have provoked interest from Old National Bank.

Roddy queried if youth under 18 can open an account and if the fund provides help with tax filing.

Hugh responded that noncustodial bank accounts are designed for 16- and 17-year-olds. Summit Credit Union has dropped the age requirements down to 14 years of age. Noncustodial accounts provide youth the opportunity to manage the account with parental or guardian oversight. Summit Credit Union is setting up trainings to help youth with financial empowerment.

Hall added that Independent Living youth are interested in financial literacy. The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) has provided a technical supervisor to administer a training to help youth with their tax inquiries.



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Hugh outlined the CEOs of Tomorrow, Inc. are providing seminars on money management and financial empowerment that are open to youth as well as community-based organizations.

Hall provided updates on Youth programming, including an increase of funding to the Independent Living grant of \$42,000. The funding is split with the Southwest Workforce Development Board and the Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington Workforce Development Board. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) permits carryover funding from year-to-year on the grant. The Youth Apprenticeship grant offering has been announced for 2023-2024 with applications due March 31st. The Board will be applying again as a consortium with Dane County School Consortium and Jefferson County School to Career. The current grant proposal will look to serve 587 youth for a total of \$645,000.

Lentz directed Members to the Grant Summary handout for additional information regarding funding amounts and initiatives.

Agenda Item 4 – Monitoring Reflections

Lentz spoke on the recent Department of Workforce Development (DWD) monitoring engagement. WIOA monitoring was conducted starting in August with a focus on accessibility elements for programs and facilities. DWD's initial report consisted of a few disallowed costs which have been cleared up with the appropriate documentation. Many of the observations presented were associated with Equal Opportunity for sites, policies, and forms. Site evaluations were contracted out to a 3rd party for assessment of compliance. Highlights from the report include Job Center partner program co-enrollments and increased focus on tracking and reporting statewide. The Board's response has been sent in and addresses all questionable costs.

Lentz added that DWD also performed WAI Monitoring starting in October. DWD's report did not contain any findings or areas of concern. Highlights include the braiding of resources between programs.

Lentz summarized updates on the Memoranda of Understanding for the region's job centers as well as WIOA Youth program offerings. Both documents have been submitted to DWD for review and board staff await a response or confirmation for signature routing.

Hall provided updates on the local monitoring process. Contractors are providing consistency in operations and increasing their collaborations. Service providers are increasing program participation with newly implemented virtual offerings. Blending of fund sources remains crucial for programs success. Board staff are finding benefits with collaborations between the Department of Corrections and the alignment of resources to support youth, co-enrollments of Independent Living grant youth participants into WIOA Out-of-School Youth (OSY) programming, lining up ISY as a ramp into Youth Apprenticeship, and working toward deepening relationships between business and industry.

Lentz noted traffic at the job centers have dramatically increased as government assistance programs and benefits related to the COVID-19 pandemic come to an end. Board staff expect to see an even larger increase of traffic at the job centers in the coming months.

Lentz spoke on job center remodeling, discussions between DWD and regional partners encompassing the reinforcement for program participants to meet in-person at job centers.

Poches requested further clarification on customer volume prior to COVID-19.

Lentz stated customer volume is back to 2019 service levels, however business and activity have changed. Wisconsin is experiencing low unemployment. Employers are enticing younger populations for employment. Board staff are working to better connect youth to employment as this will help to increase the Board's budget. Staff are also seeing an increase in offerings of work-based learning and training opportunities.

Wing pointed out with unemployment numbers low, employers are focusing on training up their employees. The YWeb Career Academy, provided by the YWCA of Madison, offers wages to be paid at \$18 an hour which increases outcomes by 99%.

Roddy suggested rebranding the naming of job centers as many may view it as a place to strictly find a new job when individuals may already be content with their current employment.

Wing concurred and emphasized the need to make sure there are multiple paths into programs and assistance. Flexibility is important and many individuals have set schedules that they are not able to work around.

J. Klein concurred and provided detail behind the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's (DVR) Career Advancement grant.

Lentz highlighted that the next Board meeting scheduled for February 8th will cover the Department of Labor's (DOL) prioritization of Good Jobs. The State of Wisconsin is utilizing a consulting agency on a new branding strategy.

Agenda Item 5 – Procurement

Lentz reminded Members of prior discussions surrounding the procurement process and provided an overview of the staffing requirements for upcoming procurement. Sole source contractors have been renewed which include Central Wisconsin Community Action Council, Community Action Coalition For South Central Wisconsin, and Dane County School Consortium. Madison College has been approached on their interest for providing Youth Training Navigators to which they have declined the offer. As such, the Board will be procuring WIOA Out-of-School Youth services for Dane County. The funding for WIOA OSY training and supportive services is maintained by the Board. Training budgets are maintained to fulfill



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requirements and are not mentioned in procurements or contracts. Board staff are anticipating another 10% in allocation reduction. Business costs are rising for contractors as well as participant activities and services. Staffing could be impacted by available resources. Support positions are currently in the model, but are not essential elements of meeting the requirements.

Lentz detailed the current staff deployment and noted allocations may not allow for all current positions offered going into program year 2023 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

Lentz stressed the importance of career planners as core to the staffing model. Job centers are the primary staffing and service hubs. Community collaborations are essential. Priorities, refinements, and feedback are important to include initiatives surrounding diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). Board member input and feedback is highly encouraged, especially during this ever-evolving environment.

Guttenberg inquired on the biggest challenges from prior years' procurements and if they have been addressed.

Lentz responded the time commitments for functions pertaining to business engagement and business outreach have been a challenge. These are being addressed this year in specificity; being more deliberate with specifying goals, adding in more description on DEIA and how contractor's plan to strategically collaborate to accomplish these goals.

J. Klein concurred and stressed the importance of DEIA and accountability.

Wing detailed the City of Madison's procurement process requires a logic model; a theory of change and specifications of input and output. Implementing this tool within the Board's procurement process may be effective.

Roddy suggested incorporating a clear requirement of substance for specific information; what resources are offered and what staffing can be provided.

C. Klein recommended incorporating inverse questioning during the review process such as why wouldn't we do this or why shouldn't we do this, and inquired about the specifics of procurement focus on DEIA initiatives.

Lentz stated regular evaluation of program composition. Target goals have not been set specifically from the state or federal levels.

J. Klein urged for incorporation of co-enrollment and awareness of community-based organizations.

Lentz concurred and outlined that Board staff will package up the procurement documents to be reviewed. Procurement release is scheduled for late February or early March. Proposals will be due back



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late April or early May. The month of May will be used for review. The Board meeting is set for May 31st which will contain committee recommendations. Negotiations and implementation are set for July 1st.

Agenda Item 6 – Adjournment

With no additional business for the Committee, Guttenberg motioned to adjourn at 11:26 a.m.

Adjourned: 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pam Christenson
Board Secretary
Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin, Inc.

Attachments for Board Records:

- Minutes from September 8, 2022
- Youth Presentation PowerPoint
- Grants Summary Handout



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