

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

514 W Jefferson, Boise, Idaho 83720

WIOA Advisory Group Meeting Minutes August 26, 2022

Attendees: Deb Matiska, Alyssa Hudman, Korey Mereness, Dan Cabrera, Dave Hanchett, Summer MacDonald, Elizabeth Hoeper, Mike Walsh, Matt Markve

Staff: Paige Nielebeck, Cassie Mansour, Rebecca Watson, Wendi Secrist, Jeffrey Bacon

Welcome

Review/Discuss Performance Data

Ms. Secrist reviewed the updated performance data. Please see attached document.

Discussion:

It was back in June or July that IDOL negotiated their performance for PY22 and PY23. With some of their numbers they were able to negotiate. The Measurable Skills Gains for youth they were able to negotiate to 50%. That is one area that they tend to struggle with. They continue to struggle with the MSG. As an organization they had done statewide trainings, but they did regional trainings this time. This allowed for smaller groups and made people more comfortable with asking questions and learning the material. They are seeing an increase in MSG. They are going to continue to do these trainings. They are going to start doing regional trainings for credential attainment.

The challenges that Adult Ed has is in follow-up in 2nd and 4th quarter employment. They serve a lot of students who may or may not include a SSN. They have had some training with their new management information system (Literacy Pro). They are trying really hard to improve this. They did well in credential attainment. Their enrollment was much lower over the past two years. They found that students who were accessing their programs stuck with the program. They are using a company to help them with best practices around recruitment and retention for Adult Ed. They are providing as much training as they can to improve their numbers.

- It might be beneficial to have staff from other agencies to sit in on trainings.

The State Board of Education is working with the Transportation Department to get a data sharing agreement in place to be able to match information with DMV data. We struggle with getting SSNs for ETP. The public institutions cannot require SSNs under FERPA.

Title III, does not have the MSG or credential attainment for the program. They have continually seen their numbers fall short of the negotiated performance. What they are seeing there is a reflection of the economy. Because it is a strong economy we see job seekers doing a lot more job hopping.

- Everyone is exceeding by far on the median earnings. Employers are increasing minimum pay rates. That is going to be interesting to see if that is sustainable over time. There is concern with the targets being negotiated to a much higher level and then Idaho not meeting those targets.

Idaho is a top performing Title IV state. There is a bit of concern around their MSGs. The program is doing pretty well.

Open Discussion

We are really close to the data sharing agreement with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Discussion:

We are at this point serving the hardest to serve because of the strength of our economy. Are there obstacles or challenges that this group could provide support on or something from the WDC to provide additional support?

- There is difficulty in accessing vendors in a timely manner for customers. Like many others in this economy they are experiencing a lot of pressure there. Workforce Development funding towards a list of quality employment specialists. There are big issues here.
 - The service providers are struggling to retain staff and hire staff. The vacancies in those positions are causing problems in the programs.
- Is there a network of partnerships with GED and the child care programs.
 - Out child care expansion grants were designed to compliment DHW's programs. We have a gap around 25,000 kids in Idaho who need seats in child care. We are able to give funding to providers or new providers who want to increase their capacity. It is a one time grant up to \$15,000 per kid they are going to serve. We are not paying for any existing infrastructure. DHW has two programs that support existing providers and one would be a good program for Adult Ed to be aware of. This is a good opportunity to collaborate.
 - DHW has a program that supports low income parents that cant afford child care. The provide subsidies to parents. If a low income individual applies and are approved for it, we are not at a point in this state that there is waiting lists for assistance. That serves the parent directly. Through the pandemic there have been grants that DHW has been making to providers to help them with the extraordinary costs due to the pandemic (e.g., sanitation, bonuses to staff, etc.).

The labor force participation rate has not returned to normal since the pandemic. We are missing about 29,000 people who did not return to work after the pandemic. We have to get more people into the labor force.

- Housing is another huge issue.

Is there any data that we have on the wages for the 72,000 open jobs?

- There is data that we can pull to look at this. Ms. Secrist will ask Mr. Shaul to do a little analysis on these jobs.
- A lot of people are not applying for jobs because they do not pay enough.
- It is important to focus on the careers that don't take a degree that pay well.

It is not only in the private sector that there is a lack of employees. Are we targeting these types of jobs in government jobs as well?

- We are working on this as well. The State of Idaho is posting more than double the amount of job openings than any other employer in the state. We need to lead by example.
- College and universities are having to look at how to transform to meet the needs of today's economy.
- We are looking at the theme of how we define success at this year's Age of Agility.

Ms. Secrist and Ms. Nash are still working with Mississippi on the hub.

We have identified who is speaking on behalf of each agency on the Juvenile Justice panel. That is coming up in September. The group should probably get together to talk about the presentation.