



Future's Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 – 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Members Present: Amy Goode, DISCOVER Partnership, Scott McBride, PSU DuBois, Matt LaVerde, IU6, Jill Martin-Rend, BC3 at Brockway

Staff Present: Pam Streich, Colleen Prectl and Aaron Herzing

Topics Discussed – Review of Committee Purpose, Grant Activity Update, What's So Cool Video Contest, Business and Education Partnership Activities, Career Pathways, Local and Regional Plan Modifications, ITAs and OJTs.

Meeting Summary:

Committee Purpose: To explore opportunities that will assist the board in accomplishing its goals for the future; including grant opportunities; To ensure that Industry/Sector Partnerships, Business and Education Connect activities (regional) and other ideas as identified by the board are meeting the goals and objectives of the board; and to provide quarterly reports on each activity to the board at each of the quarterly meetings and upon request of the board.

Grant Activity: Pam provided an update on recent grant activity – Staff are currently working on the following grant proposals that will be submitted before Christmas: PA State Local Internship Program (PA SLIP), PA SMART Next Gen Sector Partnership Grants for 3 Partnerships – Manufacturing, Healthcare and Social Assistance and Building and Construction, Teacher in the Workplace Grants in collaboration with the CEC and St Marys Area School District. The Business Education Partnership Grant Proposal (BEP) was submitted in November. Pam also informed the committee that the Re Entry Grant was not awarded however the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative proposal we submitted in partnership with the Institute for Educational Leadership was awarded.

4th Annual What's So Cool About Manufacturing Video Contest – 12 schools committed- awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at the St. Marys Area High School.

Business Education Partnership Activity – A variety of activities continue to take place throughout the region. The partnership overall has served over 5,000 youth from preschool through high school with career cruises, job shadowing, career mentoring, hands on soft skills workshops, industry days, etc. We continue to work with the Building Trades and the CCCTC on the interview project with the Building Trades representatives.

Career Pathways – Workforce Solutions awarded the Career Pathways Development project to KayLynn Hamilton Consulting. Staff are meeting with her next week to get the project off the ground. The final product will include a Career Pathway Toolkit for each of the major industry sectors as recognized by the Commonwealth. The toolkit will include an introduction to career pathways, a section on how to work with employers and job seekers using career pathways, resources and tools to work with customers and a one-page overview of each career pathway.

Local and Regional Plan Modifications: Pam updated the committee on the Local and Regional Plan process stating that all modifications have been submitted for approval and are in the final stage of the process which is final approval from Labor and Industry. Once the final approval letter is received the plans will be posted to our website.

New business: Staff have been reviewing several policies and are recommending several changes. The first is an increase in the maximum ITA award amount from \$4,500 to \$7,500. This recommendation is being made due to the increase in the cost of post-secondary education and training as well as the increase in resources available. In addition to this increase, staff also recommend when an ITA and an OJT are awarded to the same individual that the maximum amount awarded be \$9,000. In addition, providers may not increase the cost of a training to meet this maximum award amount. If the cost of the program on the current ETPL list increases after the implementation of this policy, and we feel that this occurred

only because our policy was changed then the ITA award will be made at the previous cost of the program – Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis.

Additionally, Our Title I provider has been very successful in placing job seekers into OJTs and employers have indicated they are not concerned about the TABE test scores. Currently all job seekers who do not reach a certain level on the TABE have to go through remediation to bring their Math and Reading Levels up to the requirement score.

The second recommendation is the removal of the requirement of TABE testing job seekers being placed on an On the Job Training Contract.

Next Meetings - 2020– Tuesdays – March 10, June 9, September 8 and December 8, 2020 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Action Items for the WDB: The committee recommends the board approve the following: 1) An increase in the maximum ITA award to \$7,500 effective January 8, 2020; 2) A maximum of \$9,000 when a customer is awarded ITA funds and is placed on an OJT; 3) Addition of a clause to the ITA policy that prohibits training providers from increasing the cost of tuition for training programs to align with this increase and 4) the removal of the TABE testing requirement for OJT participants.