

Interagency Collaborative Team (ICT)

July 25, 2024

10:00 a.m.

GOOGLE MEETS

ATTENDEES: Alyce Almond, Deb Harris, Sandra Adkins, Scott Adkins, Charla Austin, Gary Blankenship, Jonathon Compton, Michael Crown, Barb Dawes, Amanda Dawson, Kristy Deem, David Dyer, Cydney Eades, Tiffany Ellis-Williams, Leroy Hanshaw, Rosemary Guida, Tracey Kennedy, Chad Ketchum, Lisa Lilly, Tara Martinez, Criss McCauley, Bill Monterosso, Adam Mouse, Kent Nowvskie, Nick Nunnery, Maureen Persons, Jason Roberts, David Rogers, Beth Shoemaker, Phil Stephens, Lori Turner, Bridgit Arnold, Michael Ferrari, Michele Painter

- Michael Crown opened the meeting and announced the meeting was being recorded and transcribed. He welcomed all attendees and asked if there were any new individuals on the meeting. Michael then turned the meeting over to Criss McCauley.
- **Criss McCauley** - November 18 - 22 2024 is National Apprenticeship Week. We will be holding a Statewide Apprentice Job Fair on November 20, 2024 from 1:00pm - 3:30pm. We will have flyers to distribute soon. This year we are combining Apprenticeship week and Youth Apprenticeship week together into one job fair. Our goal is to have traditional and nontraditional apprenticeship programs. We hope to get as many as possible. I have already talked to all CT directors in the State and given them a heads up. We will be pushing for Seniors and Juniors to attend the virtual job fair. We will need help promoting. We will send out flyers for both job seekers and Apprenticeship programs. If you know of an apprenticeship program, it doesn't matter if they are registered or not registered, please share the information with them. Also, if any Region is hosting an apprenticeship event and would like my assistance in any way I would love to help.
- **Bill Monterosso** - July 30, 2024 we will be hosting "Bridging the Gap" which will focus on individuals released from incarceration within the last 90 days. We are hoping to expand this program Statewide at some point. It is similar to Rapid Response activity, only virtually and for incarcerated individuals. It is set up from a workforce perspective. We have several partners presenting to the incarcerated individuals informing them of resources for when they are released.
- **Tracey Kennedy, Region 6 Outreach Coordinator** - Region 6 has a few best practices we would like to share and Amanda will send out the PowerPoint slides with the meeting minutes.
 - Nursing ITA account scholarship policy was approved in June 2022. The approved policy increases ITA funding for individuals who were going to training for a RN degree associate or better. We increased to a maximum amount of \$12,000 leading to an LPN license and a maximum of \$20,000 for RN degree associate or better. There is a shortage of nurses and medical professionals in the state. We saw a 68% increase in registered participants in those trainings from the previous year. We will continue to assist if an individual obtains a LPN license and then in the future wants to pursue a RN.
 - We have a great Business services team in Region 6. Our goal is to always have at least one representative from each of our 13 counties who works directly with employers or provides some type of service or resource. We have a guest speaker at every Business Services Team meeting. It is somebody who has program funding available that directly impacts or can work with employers to make

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sure that our team has as much information as possible. The guest speaker has resources that are specific to employers.

- Highlights from Region 6
 - EmpowerFest 2024 - An AJC partner Community Event. We did two of these events. This was a true partner event. We had space, food, and even haircuts donated. It was a very successful event.
 - USP Hazelton Reentry Fair. Once a year each facility has a reentry fair. We attend those and give them information including AJC info, Federal Bonding and WOTC information.
- **Rosemary Guida, Executive Director Region 5** - Region 5 formed in 1987 and was one of three private industry councils. Region 5 is a six county service area. In 2022 Region 5 had the highest unemployment rate in the state and five of our six counties had the most senior population. The past four years we have been working with Trade unions. We see a lot of people going into apprenticeship programs with several unions. We currently work with Ironworkers, Bricklayers, Labors, Electricians, Roofers, Carpenters and Plumbers Unions. We've had a number of layoffs the past couple of years. In 2022 Mountain State Carbon closed and laid off 288 people. In 2023 Center Foundry laid off 37 people. Allegheny Wood closed and across the state approximately 600 people were without a job, we had about 30 here in Region 5. Cleveland Cliffs idled the plant in Weirton and laid off 885 people. Rue 21 in Hancock County laid off 106 people and Pure Watercraft also shut down. We are trying to get all these people in jobs and/or training. Cleveland Cliffs has announced they will reopen a facility in Brooke County and put in an electrical transformer plant and bring back about 600 people, but that won't happen until 2026. We have had two Italian companies open in our area. The Port of West Virginia has opened in Brooke County. They'll be hiring a couple hundred people down the road. Then we have Form Energy that opened in Hancock County in 2023. They will ultimately hire around 750 people. So we've had major layoffs, but we also have companies coming in that intend to do major hiring in the future. Hopefully things will balance.
 - Best Practices -Star Systems (Services Training and Referrals). This is where we set up kiosks at different locations in the six county area. Customers can get on and access things like training resources, educational opportunities and other things available in the Northern Panhandle. This is a pilot program and we currently have 12 locations. It is going well, but overall we are still struggling to get to our pre-pandemic level of customer flow at the One Stop Centers. There is a tracking program associated with the kiosks so that we can see where people are signing up, and how many people at each location. That will help us determine if we should expand the program.
 - For the past six years we have sponsored a Youth Expo for Youth enrolled in our Youth Long programs. The expo always involves a high demand occupation and is usually a two day affair. This past fall we did the expo with apprenticeship programs. We had a number of guest speakers from different trade unions talk with the youth. The apprenticeship programs had a few kids enroll because of the expo. We also help them write resumes and do mock interviews. We do work readiness skills training during the expo as well.
 - Also for Youth at the Comprehensive center which is the Wheeling One Stop we established a STEM room. We did this to introduce youth to high demand training occupations. We have an XYZ DaVinci printer with filament that creates projects with a computer attached to it. We have a Lego Mindstorm robotic kit curriculum, robotic stem kits for building projects tied to engineering and technology. We also have a NASCAR program. The library, which continues to grow, currently has over a hundred books on STEM curricula to try and entice youth to get into one of the fields.
 - We have been providing monthly job skill and career development workshops for Lee Day Center. These individuals have substance use issues. The Lee Day Center will bus the individual to our facilities for the workshops. We have guest speakers and try to help them and provide what skills training they need to get back into their communities and be self-sufficient.
 - Regions 5 and 6 are involved in an ARC Arise planning grant. We are in the very early stages and we can provide more information at a later time.
- **Deb Harris, West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition** - We have placed reentry liaisons in 13 correctional institutions in the state. Currently we have 4 liaisons working across the state. We begin working with individuals 120 days prior to release. We currently have 143 active cases that those 4 reentry liaisons are

working with. We started this initiative about 9 months ago and have had 354 cases and they are still working with us and 152 of those have been successfully transitioned to Jobs & Hope transition agents in their communities. Please keep me in mind for anything where you are specifically working with the reentry population. Amanda will send out the Reentry Liaisons contact information. Reentry Liaisons work only with the adult population.

- **Tara Martinez, Workforce Resiliency Office** - On the State Workforce Development Board website we have added a button for the Interagency Collaborative Team (ICT). When you click on the link you can see that Lorrie has put up a lot of information. Currently you can view the agendas, minutes, and completed WIOA State Plan. This will be a landing page for ICT, if you have information you want added please send to myself or Lorrie Smith. We want to be inclusive and be able to disperse information.
- **Criss McCauley** - IUPAT will be having a job fair August 12 at the WorkForce office in Kanawha City and on August 14 at the WorkForce office in Parkersburg. Amanda will share the flyers.
- **Maureen Persons** - Virtual Job Fair in July produced the best numbers ever. 1,153 registered job seekers and 113 employers. The next scheduled virtual job fair is the first Wednesday in August.

Michael Crown closed the meeting at 10:52am.

The next ICT meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2024 at 10:00am