



Board Meeting
December 14, 2023
11:30
The Innovation Portal

Staff: Sydney Raine, Lisa Thomas, Laura Bethea, Todd Soward, Susan Kozlowski

Present: Anderson, Smith, Wilson, Pang, Moses, Guy, Anise, Chavis, Lee, Pharr, Payne, Charles

Proxy: Moses for Hare, Chavis for Rogers, Guy for Taylor

Guests: Ely, Mohajerin, Smith

11:39 Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed Nick Hampton with The Innovation Portal.

Hampton welcomed everyone to The Innovation Portal, explained that the Portal was for Entrepreneurship's that needed a place to host meetings or do business opportunities. The Portal was birthed from a Chamber trip and Todd Greer is the Executive Director. New partnerships are being developed for the Portal and the space is available for the community to use.

Chairperson Smith introduced Kevin Mohajerin, Performance Director, Workforce Development Division

Mohajerin discussed program performance and explained what contributes to the performance of WIOA – See PowerPoint Presentation

There were no questions, however Raine indicated that Kevin met with Managers and SWAPTE staff on the day before to discuss performance and explained how important it is for data to be accurate.

Minutes: September 27, 2023 Board Meeting – **Chairperson Smith asked for a motion to approve – Pharr made motion, 2nd – Approved**

Financial Report: Chairperson Smith asked Ms. Thomas to review the financial reports. – See attached

Thomas gave 1st quarter financial report.

Thomas indicated that when report was done that SWAPTE had not received ADOL invoices for the quarter, however SWAPTE does now have them.

Thomas mentioned that the AWSP budget was increased to a total of \$5 million.

Thomas mentioned that the Summer Program budget has been increased for the upcoming year.

Thomas mentioned that biweekly meetings are being held with key staff to discuss needs, outcomes, performance, etc. so that funds are being used adequately.

Thomas indicated that the financial budget has been approved by the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee.

Chairperson Smith asked for a motion to approve –Anise made motion, 2nd– Approved

Moses inquired about keeping track of retention with the same employer. Thomas indicated that yes that is done on the OJT contract and staff have to do this in follow up.

Committee Status Report: Chairperson Smith asked Bethea to give committee reports. - See attached

Bethea discussed R2R and that SWAPTE met with the Director and his assistant of the CTE programs and that we have asked for 2 young adults from each high school. Bethea stated that Todd and his staff are trying to get more involved with the schools to help transition the graduates into their career paths whether it be employment or future training. There is a gap with getting the youth that we serve to understand and take advantage of the opportunities that they have. Bethea also indicated that SWAPTE would be willing to assist or host a parent's night to discuss opportunities with the parents. In some instances, SWAPTE could also help the parents.

Bethea discussed AWSP and how it was helping individuals to get pay increases and success stories from our Region were being presented to USDOL. Bethea gave thanks to Akareem and Josh with Bishop and Coastal for always helping and pulling together training for our employers along with ATN. With AWSP it is putting all of our names within businesses that are now reaching out for more of our assistance.

Raine indicated that Frazier Payne was part of the 3-member panel and is now the Acting President at Coastal. Thanked Frazier for the work that he did as part of this panel and due to his resignation Clinton Johnson will replace him on the panel.

Region Program Activities: Chairperson Smith asked Kozlowski to give update on program activities in the Career Center – See attached

Kozlowski mentioned that OJT contracts were down a little due to all BSR's working on AWSP, however many employers that never worked with OJT are now being introduced and taking advantage of the program.

Kozlowski noted that the OOS Youth Work Based Learning program has been very successful with employer actually hiring the youth full time under an OJT Contract.

Kozlowski stated that R2R still showing participants because staff are tracking those that are still in school to capture performance and future funding opportunities.

Kozlowski discussed Eligibility Explorer that is now being done Statewide by placing kiosks in libraries and HBCU's. Kozlowski continued to explain the process.

Wilson asked how often are the responses and Kozlowski stated they are real time, however staff are playing catch up with those that we have received before a process was put in place.

Kozlowski also discussed how this has also opened up other opportunities with data validation and clients receiving services without having to come into the Career Center. In addition, staff are training those in the libraries on how to use the system.

Bethea spoke up and stated that her and Thomas was at a SETA Board Meeting and Winston Tompoe with USDOL, praised Alabama by putting this into action.

Kozlowski also indicated that since Mohajerin presentation that staff know the importance of capturing all data on clients for performance.

Kozlowski indicated that over 105 hiring events have occurred with assistance or being hosted from the Career Centers and in the future more information could be presented regarding to how many were hired and etc.

Pang spoke up and stated that GD Cooper has hired 50-75% of their employees through the Career Centers. Tonya and Haley with Jackson CC have organized over 20 job fairs for him, and this is all at NO CHARGE. That the Career Centers are a great asset to employers and more should use them.

Presidents Report: Chairperson Smith asked Raine to give his report.

Belton discussed RSN and that SWARTZ never with the Director and his assistant of the OTE program and that we have assist for your program from a high school. Belton stated that he and his staff are trying to get more involved in the school to help transition the graduates into their career path. Belton also stated that they have a goal with getting the youth that we have to understand and take advantage of the opportunity that they have. Belton also stated that SWARTZ would be willing to assist or have a parent's opportunity with the program in some instances. SWARTZ could also help the parent.

Belton stated that he and his staff were looking for ways to get day programs and success stories from our region were being presented to the OTE. Belton stated that he and his staff with Belton and Belton for ways being helped and not to get other things for our employees and with ATN. With SWARTZ is getting all of our other within business that are now resulting out for more of our assistance.

Belton indicated that Belton's name was part of the 7 number panel and is now the Acting President of the panel. Belton stated that he did as part of the panel and due to his resignation Clinton Johnson will replace him on the panel.

Region Program Activities: (Johnson Smith) asked to provide to give updates on program activities in the Career Center - See attached.

Kozlowski mentioned that OTE contracts were down a little due to all RSN's working on AWSR. However, many employers that never worked with OTE are now being introduced and taking advantage of the program.

Kozlowski noted that the OTE Youth Work Based Learning program has been very successful with employers actively hiring the youth for the number in OTE contract.

Kozlowski stated that RSN still has a high percentage of staff are tracking those that are still in school to capture partnerships and future funding opportunities.

Kozlowski discussed capability in a core that is now being done statewide by placing kiosks in markets and H&M. Kozlowski continued to explain the process.

With a asked how often are the responses and Kozlowski stated they are real time, however staff are playing catch up with those that we have received. There's process was put in place.

Kozlowski also discussed how the state would be able to get other opportunities with data validation and clients receiving services without it. He also mentioned the Career Center. In addition, state are training those in the field on how to use the system.

Belton spoke up and stated that he and Johnson were at the Board Meeting and Weston Longoria with USDOL. Belton stated that he and Johnson were putting the info on the board.

Kozlowski also indicated that he and Johnson were at the meeting and Weston Longoria with USDOL. Belton stated that he and Johnson were putting the info on the board.

Kozlowski indicated that over 100 filing events have occurred with a lot of information being passed on. Belton stated that he and Johnson were at the meeting and Weston Longoria with USDOL.

Belton spoke up and stated that SD Coord. has hired 50% of the employees through the Career Center. Belton and Johnson with Jackson CC have organized over 50 job fairs for him and that all of them. Belton stated that he and Johnson were at the meeting and Weston Longoria with USDOL. Belton stated that he and Johnson were putting the info on the board.

President's Report: OTE - Johnson Smith asked Belton to give his report.

Raine gave a Thank you to everyone and realized that the meeting was longer than normal, but wanted the board to understand the importance of performance and day to day issues that goes into performance.

Raine shared that the State has rescinded incentives for upcoming years that were earned due to exceeding performance. That now they have put into place a Grants Program where regions could access additional funds by submitting special grants for services within their region. That SWAPTE will be looking into this in the future.

Raine indicated that SWAPTE attended a HVAC Graduation at Bishop and 4 out of the 8 were funded by SWAPTE and will now be employable.

Raine discussed the new WIOA Law that is being presented by Congress and that there will be some changes coming should it pass.

Raine asked the board to give permission to allow December 26th to be a holiday for his staff and Pharr made the motion immediately and all approved.

Raine thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Bethea stated that the Statewide Plan will be due in February so that we will be focusing on getting that submitted.

**Chairperson Smith asked if anyone had any additional comments and if not a motion to adjourn.
Motion to adjourn by majority vote (1:35)**

Submitted By:


Stephanie Streeter

Raine has a firm you to everyone and asked that the meeting was to get them normal but wanted
the point to understand the importance of performance and try to get issues that goes into
of the meeting.

Raine stated that the State has received feedback for upcoming year that were listed due to
scheduling performance. That now they have put into place a certain program where regions could
access additional funds by submitting special grants for services within their region. That SWARTWILL
be looking into that in the future.

Raine indicated that SWARTWILL is a member of HWAT, a coalition of HWAT, a coalition of HWAT and 4 out of the 8 were funded by
SWARTWILL and will not be a priority.

Raine discussed the new WFOA law that is being presented by Congress and that there will be some
things that will be about it that.

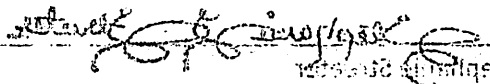
Raine said that the State is giving permission to allow December 31st to be a holiday for his staff and that
there is no action immediately and all approved.

Raine thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Raine stated that the Statewide Plan will be in February so that we will be focusing on getting that
submitted.

Raine stated that if anyone had any additional comments and if not a motion to adjourn
to adjourn by majority vote (100)

Submitted by


Stephen G. Smith