

**MIDLANDS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
YOUTH COMMITTEE**

August 12, 2016

Reports

The Committee reviewed a preliminary performance report for Program Year 2015. All of the Youth measures were met or exceeded. Youth Placement – exceeded; Degree attainment – met; Literacy/Numeracy Gains – met.

The Committee reviewed charts of the Program Year 2015 obligations by line item. Staff prepared the charts for internal use but shared with the Committee for consideration in displaying expenditures in a different way for the new Program Year. The change is intended to provide more meaningful information to the Committee in regards to how the programs are operating and providing services. The Committee liked the information shared and the format. It was noted that the 80% obligation rate was met by June 30 as required by US DOL and the Midlands is on target to expend a minimum of 20% of the available funds on work-based learning.

RFP Status

The Committee was updated on the results from the recent RFP cycles. Fairfield County was funded for Youth services in the most recent round but no providers were selected for Lexington or Richland Counties. The WIOA regulations were released on June 30 and has given indication that the local Board may select to contract services or not. Locally preparation for contracting has been underway since 2014 and is currently operating with a bare bones staff as a result. The Committee discussed the options of contracting services, the scope of services included previously and the differences between a cost-reimbursement and performance-based payment models. The Committee recommends issuing a RFP for Youth services but combining it with the Adult & Dislocated Workers services RFP to make the most attractive package available.

Local Plan

The Committee discussed the instructions issued from DEW in June regarding the Plan. The Plan is for a four year period and includes not only the Local area Plan but unlike previous years also includes a planning component for the newly formed regions. The Midlands area is a part of the Central Region composed of local areas Midlands, Catawba and Lower Savannah. Staff worked through the questions included in the Plan and begun preparing draft answers. The full planning instructions were shared with the group and then focused the discussion on the pertinent areas for the Committee. Specifically, the group discussed the current vision statement of the Board, continued projects of the Committee specifically the enrollment blitz starting with Summer Work Experience and another Youth-focused Career Fair, targets for individuals with disabilities, how emphasize the target projects in program design particularly in the RFP and contract negotiation process, and policy updates to include supportive services and Incentives, and weaknesses in the program elements to strengthen with the new contractor in place.

Summer Youth Update

The Committee received an update on the recent summer work experience cycle as well as the exit interviews held with those participants. The activity ran for the months of June and July with check-up on August 1 with the exit interviews. Most of the 32 participants completed the work successfully and were candid with the Committee members who ran the focus group. A continued need to improve worksite matching with the interest of the participants remains the biggest opportunity for improvement. The report concluded with the success story of one of the youth being hired full-time at his summer work experience site at the conclusion.

Youth Job Fair

The Committee got a recap of the recent Job Fair exclusively for Youth. Although the turnout of youth aged job seekers was low, the employer group was enthusiastic about who they saw and were interested in participating again.