

**WASHINGTON COUNTY  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING  
March 15, 2023**

**Members Present**

Chris Dressel	John Burcaw	Christopher Eng
Jordan Fry	Erin Kampa	Lucas Priestly
Laurie Levine		

**Action Team Members**

Sharon Blomgren	Stan Karwoski
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**CareerForce Staff Present**

Rick Roy	Cory Sindt	Gerald Klebsch
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**Guest**

Doug Loberg (potential Board member)

**1. Meeting Called to Order & Determination of Quorum by Chair – Christine Dressel**

Thank you to John Burcaw and the Finishing Trades Institute for hosting the March meeting and tour. It was determined there was a Quorum.

- A Motion was made to approve the December minutes, it was seconded, and the Motion was approved.
- A Motion was made to approve the agenda, it was seconded, and the Motion was approved.

**2. FTIUM Tour/Presentation – John Burcaw**

The tour will show a few of our virtual reality trainings, spray painting, nuke and scissor lift and welding. The institute invested in this technology for modality, instructing and moving students from the classroom to practice simulation, practice on the shop floor and then apply the skills in the workplace. Different than higher ed, we give college credit for on-the-job work. Students work their full-time job, attend 2 days a month in the classroom and get college credit. We offer five general education courses. They complete those and we can factor that over to a two-year degree at no cost to their family. For the gen-ed, we have a nominal fee, that's just to make sure they complete.

FTIUM is one of two registered apprenticeship colleges in the U.S., here & Philadelphia. We are an accredited school, beholden to the U.S. Dept of Labor, State of Minnesota DOLI and U.S. Dept. of Education. There are about 19 staff. We have seven registered apprenticeships & 2-year degree program, soon to add a 4-year.

We're the most diverse apprenticeship school in Minnesota with 49% female or BIPOC student population. We are committed to removing obstacles to entry and making apprenticeship available to anyone. FTIUM currently serves about 450 apprentices, 30 high

school students, 40 in gen-ed studies right now. We also have about 1300 come through to do continuing education classes. Journey workers coming through for upskilling, safety training, and to learn new trends in the industry.

We do a lot of community work for unemployed or under employed, worker readiness programs throughout the summer. We will be working with corrections this year. Looking at opportunities for system impacted youth & adults as they reenter society. Meeting and speaking to inmates throughout the state, help get them to the apprenticeship stage but also set them up when they get here with an FTIU care team. We're the only apprenticeship program in the country with a licensed addiction counselor on staff & a care coordinator. Students can go for counseling or schedule counseling, we have crisis intervention, we also do outreach education with our professionals. Each day attendance is turned in at 10:00. Anyone who missed gets a phone call – "I see you weren't at school today, are you okay?" Once it's established they're ok, we work to find out from them why they're missing and can refer our care team if needed. It's a different approach.

### **3. Board Action Items for Federal Requirements**

- Approval of Washington County as sole service provider for WIOA youth services  
We subcontract most of our MYP (state funding) to Tree Trust to do the type of specialized summer work experience they provide. We do not subcontract our WIOA. Our services are individualized to provide assessment, career planning, training, and work experience. There are strict performance standards tied to them. Washington Co. Workforce Division employs a team consisting of case managers and supervisors for all WIOA services for youth dedicated to adhering to federal and state policy and performance for WIOA youth services. We need to submit the approval to the State from the Board that we remain the sole provider.

Motion was made to approve Washington County as the sole provider for WIOA Youth Services, it was seconded. Vote taken and the Motion was approved.

- Memorandum of Understanding Agreement (Update) – Infrastructure Funding Agreement (Update)  
Agreement of all required federal titles to participate in the One-Stop delivery system. We do have verbal agreement right now, but it can't be signed off until we have the infrastructure funding agreement done, which we're working on. It's how costs are shared, what's reasonable contributions, can be in-kind - an example: Carl Perkins set aside \$5000 for the Board to allocate to any special project tied to career & technical education. There has not been a request for use of the funds yet.
- One-Stop Operator Agreement (Update)  
This is in place; the State is saying Vocational Rehabilitation cannot participate at this point. Rick has asked if they can honor this since it expires next year at the end of June. If not, we'd have to do an RFP. In the past no one has applied so we've always gone with consortium approach allowed if no one bids. We can also look at

Washington County as a sole service provider of the one-stop system if we have the right safety protocols. That's why we have the CEAT because the requirement of the One-Stop Operator is to make sure all programs are working together as collaboratively as possible.

#### 4. Action Team Updates & Recognition Award Nominations

- Business Engagement Action Team –  
Virtual reality is becoming a unifying theme among the Action Teams. Education is important. Once we get it up & running, we want it to be available to our community partners like Family Means at Cimarron & Landfall. We will be collecting data on business and the labor force. Chris Eng is working with Realtime Talent on this. They've provided us with a graph of the business side of it, breaking down the County into three areas – north, central & southern. In the top five there are three consistent, construction, manufacturing, and healthcare. Depending on cost as we go forward with virtual reality, we should focus on those three. We are hoping to get some additional ARPA funding.

Jerry and Rick have discussed what would a 30-minute video look like for each occupation

1. A five-minute interview with someone in that occupation – this is my career; this is what I do.
2. Then 15 minutes of a typical day in that occupation shot at the location.
3. Highlight educational opportunities related to the occupation, programming, providers of support
4. List all businesses in Washington County hiring for that occupation

We would purchase laptops and VR goggles (#'s depending on the budget). Jerry would manage. Schools & community partners could schedule times to have it at their location.

The Team is continuing our Chamber partnerships and leadership development with our summits. The summit held in Forest Lake was very well attended. Planning one May 11<sup>th</sup> in Stillwater. These are based on the survey chambers asked businesses what their greatest challenges were coming out of the pandemic.

Transportation has been a big piece. We have an updated GIS map identifying where all the low-income housing is in Washington County and if they are senior or family units. Also working with Andersen Windows in Bayport and will pull in the Cottage Grove location as well. They are interested in looking at how to help their employees with transportation as they have many that ride share. We're also working with Schmitt and Sons. They're a busing company that works with high schools and also the workforce.

- Community Engagement Action Team - no members present today to give an update

- Education Engagement Action Team – *Sharon Blomgren* – there has been a lot of networking between members offering information within their organization for resources and alliances.
- Recognition Award Nominations  
We want to recognize some of our partners on an annual basis for work they're doing. There isn't a formal process in place yet. The thought is to recognize these organizations at the County Board Meeting.

The Business Engagement Action Team recommends Renewal by Andersen in Cottage Grove. They work closely with South Washington County School District Adult Basic Ed and language skills development. We've done some projects with them in the last year. They've been a great partner in addressing workforce development challenges. Our most growing population is the minority population. Many are immigrants. Language has been a challenge and they offer language classes on-site at their facility.

Community Engagement Action Team doesn't have a recommendation at this time.

Education Engagement Action Team recommendation would be Forest Lake High School – Mike Miron & Molly Bonnett, specifically. John Burcaw with FTIUM should be on this list too.

Motion made for Recognition Award nominations to Renewal by Andersen on the business side & Forest Lake High School, specifically Mike Miron & Molly Bonnett on the education side, it was seconded, and the Motion was approved.

*Stan Karwoski* suggested – if Forest Lake High School is approved, it would be nice to have Commissioner Fran Miron who represents the Forest Lake are present the award.

## 5. Board Members and Guest Updates

*Chris Dressel* – on behalf of the Board wants to thank John Burcaw, Jordan Fry and staff at FTIM for the great tour and all your dedication and time.

*Chris Dressel* – I am retiring at the end of the year. As my role as chair, it would be a natural break for the June full board meeting to be my last meeting to chair, since we are on summer break July and August. I will stay on the board as a member through the end of the year to give time to find a replacement. The chair needs to be from the business representative category. There is also executive action team that the chair is

part of. That team meets the same day as the other three action teams, following their meetings.

*Stan Karwoski* – round of applause for Chris in appreciation of her work and dedication to the Board.

*Erin Kampa* – recently received stats – Washington County is one of the highest in the state for people with disabilities being employed. 54% which is one of 6-7 counties in the state that are that high. Washington County has 85% people with no disabilities that are employed. That is one of the higher counties as well for the unemployment rate. Voc. Rehab was recently awarded a 12-million grant. In the disability world there's been many years where people are working sub minimum wage – working piece rate. There has been legislation where that is going away. That would affect all counties and as that changes – we work with our employers to be creative to help these people to work - finding job tasks for some folks. It's an initiative that's been going on a long time. It's starting in Hennepin County; legislation is still happening. Washington County doesn't have many left working in this capacity.

Link: <https://disabilitycompendium.org/compendium/2023-state-report-for-county-level-data-employment/MN>

Another legislative update is in the bills is for additional funding for IPS programs – individualize placement and supports. Providing services for individuals with significant/persistent mental illness. Individuals may be just out of hospitalization, actively experiencing symptoms – it's a place them first, ask questions later approach. We want individuals to get jobs. It's exciting to get additional funding for that also.

*Stan Karwoski* – Thank you to FTIUM for the tour. Very impressed with everything you're doing here – the training and professionalism, and all the people you're involving from different cultures, just so impressed.

Being on this workforce board and seeing all the challenges and shortages to Washington County businesses, I'm going to talk to Kevin Corbid, County Administrator, thinking we need to make it part of our platform. It's really hard to get it on the County platform. We can bring up a discussion to go to the State Legislature to ask for money investments for workforce boards.

*Jordan Fry* – thank you everyone for attending and please stay after to try out some of the VR.

## **6. Chris Dressel**

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded, and the Motion was approved.