

REPORTS

NM Department of Workforce Solutions

C. Gallegos had no updates from NMDWS at this time. The EAWDB staff will present at the October State Board meeting on youth activities.

Service Provider Report

L. De La Cruz provided an update on staff vacancies in Alamogordo and reported on participant statistics and financial obligations year-to-date: In the Adult program, they currently have 326 participants, which is slightly higher than the 324 they had at this time last year. Their financial obligations are at \$700,000, representing an increase of nearly \$150,000 compared to the previous year. For the Dislocated Worker program, there are 75 participants to date, showing a slight decrease from the 80 participants they had at this time last year. Their current financial obligations amount to approximately \$125,000.

In the Youth/Unearthing Future Opportunities program, they are currently serving 233 participants, which is slightly lower than the 245 participants they had at this time last year. They are closely maintaining their participant numbers, with financial obligations totaling \$125,000.

They are currently in partnership with the Inn of the Mountain Gods to conduct incumbent worker training as they introduce a new HR system. This training initiative will encompass their entire team, which comprises slightly over 1100 staff members. It's a substantial undertaking that the team is fully prepared to tackle. L. De La Cruz expressed that they've been receiving substantial support from board staff, and this endeavor will be a collaborative effort involving all teams, including Adult and Youth programs. They've initiated discussions with the Title III side to ensure the successful completion of this challenge.

On the On-the-Job Training (OJT) front, they currently have 16 active OJTs, 15 of which were initiated in this program year, one is located in Des Moines, Union County, and three in Mosquero, Harding County. These areas have traditionally received fewer services in the past, so the team is excited about expanding into these rural regions. The Clovis office has been leading these OJTs. Moreover, they have four more in progress for Lincoln County and are exploring the possibility of adding a couple more OJTs in collaboration with the Inn of the Mountain Gods.

With the financial obligations flowing smoothly, the team's focus will now shift towards ensuring proper co-enrollment on the RESEA side.

Regarding youth programs, they've been collaborating with Title III on their pre-apprenticeship program, with three co-enrollments currently active. These include placements in Roswell through an insurance company, the Restore program for Habitat for Humanity in Hobbs, and a certified nurse assistant role at a hospital in Hobbs.

With entrepreneurial training, they have 20 participants enrolled, all of whom started on

September 6. This cohort will be the only one for this program year. They successfully conducted another cohort with the New Mexico Youth Challenge Academy and enrolled 36 participants. A great achievement for this cohort is their early utilization of Career Edge, a software tool that facilitates resume writing, interview practice, and the development of essential soft skills.

They've also completed the first work experiences cohort in Guadalupe County, a location they've been actively trying to serve. These experiences included placements in Blue Hole Cienega, a nonprofit, as well as several positions at Santa Rosa High School. The most successful placement was at the Guadalupe County Hospital, where a participant has been hired as a full-time Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

Regarding the UFO conference, the team is in the process of scouting potential venues for this year's event. Options currently under consideration include Hobbs at the Core, Clovis, Inn of the Mountain Gods, and Roswell.

DWS Area Supervisors gave brief updates on their areas. A. David reported that in Hobbs the team has been actively engaged in organizing back-to-school events in collaboration with NMJC and USW. They successfully conducted a Rapid Hire event for their CYFD partner and filled various positions related to school construction projects. There are ongoing efforts to hire a Business Consultant and a School Apprenticeship Career Consultant due to Donna Burton's transition to a position at NMJC. Hobbs continues to maintain a busy atmosphere, with an average of 26 to 30 job seekers visiting daily.

M. Anaya reported that in Alamogordo the team conducted a CYFD Rapid Hire event, and they are in the process of reviewing applications for a Career Consultant. Their office has been hosting Amazon for orientation and hiring purposes, with Maverick being a significant participant in utilizing their facilities for onboarding. All Maverick hires have come from workforce referrals, indicating positive results in their job placements. For the month of August, they achieved 69 Wagner-Peyser enrollments and 6 RESEA enrollments, demonstrating their active engagement in workforce initiatives.

M. Martinez reported that the Eddy County team organized the CYFD rapid hire event in both Artesia and Carlsbad. They had a successful job fair in Carlsbad, featuring 38 employers and drawing approximately 86 attendees. They are involved in supporting an upcoming career fair at Artesia High School. Collaborative efforts have been initiated with the Early College and Carlsbad Enrichment Center for Work Keys. Their successful partnership last year with Work Keys has generated enthusiasm for a repeat collaboration. Their schedule remains packed as they engage with businesses, offer assistance with pre-apprenticeship programs, facilitate business orientations, and provide support to job seekers. On days that the offices are staffed they serve around 20 individuals in Carlsbad and approximately 10 to 15 in Artesia.

F. Juarez shared that in Chaves County they have been actively engaged in various community and hiring events. They are preparing to participate in an event at Sierra Middle School, emphasizing their involvement in Title I and Title III programs. They are

organizing a "Walk for Hope" event, which includes a fundraising raffle to support cancer patients. F. Juarez shared how they are collaborating with RCC to organize a hiring event scheduled for the 28th, primarily aimed at inmates who are soon to be released. The event will provide essential services within the RCC facility. F. Juarez highlighted their commitment to community engagement and service through these activities.

Administrative Entity

V. Davis reported on the current status of the program year PY22, which marks the final quarter of the previous year's performance measures. Upon receiving initial numbers, V. Davis collaborated with the leadership teams to address measures that were not meeting or exceeding expectations. To improve these measures, they initiated a process of sending participant lists to the teams to identify opportunities for corrective actions, such as making cold calls and obtaining supplemental wage information from customers. This data entry effort was carried out collaboratively with L. De La Cruz, M. Hopkins, and K. Zuest teams, aimed at ensuring accurate recording of data in the online system to positively impact the measures.

V. Davis also mentioned that all PY 22 data needed to be entered by September 15th, in compliance with state requirements. L. De La Cruz team focused on addressing measures where they were either failing or barely meeting targets. They actively reached out to gather employment verifications and correct data entries. The impact of these efforts is expected to become apparent in mid to late October when the state submits its final data report to Futureworks, the database used by the organization. The data updates should show improved performance figures, which will be presented at the next board meeting.

B. Elias provided a comprehensive report covering several key points. She encouraged board members to attend the statewide conference scheduled for October 25th and 26th in Albuquerque and urged interested members to reach out to her or T. Suarez for more information. B. Elias announced the NAWB conference dates from March 23rd to 26th, 2024, in Washington, DC. Due to limited capacity, they will work with the Operations and Finance Committee to accommodate board members interested in attending.

B. Elias also highlighted that she and B. Silvers had been invited to attend the statewide Adult Education Conference in Albuquerque, showcasing the strong partnership between the board and Adult Education.

B. Elias discussed a national study for aligned case management and a project focusing on aligning case management systems among partner programs. EAWDB Board Staff have been asked to represent local boards and partners in this initiative.

B. Elias shared that Secretary Nair committed \$60,000 (\$30,000 from Title III and \$30,000 from the Title I statewide set-aside funding) for the UFO conference, including slots for youth attendees from other regions.

B. Elias shared information regarding the Texas Workforce Commission Conference scheduled for November 29th to December 1st in Houston. Several AE staff and field staff are expected to attend.

B. Elias mentioned that NAWDP's conference would be held in San Antonio. B. Elias discussed the importance of certification for programmatic staff and efforts to obtain certified workforce development professional credentials.

B. Elias addressed concerns regarding government funding, stating that government funds are set to lapse on October 1st. Congress is in negotiations for FY 24 funding, with the House proposing significant cuts and the Senate's version remaining relatively stable. She highlighted potential implications for funding distribution and emphasized the need to operate under a continuing resolution if reauthorization of WIOA is not achieved, potentially leading to a government shutdown.

One-Stop Operator and Site Manager Reports

During his presentation, B. Silvers shared exciting updates about two upcoming projects. The first project is the planning of an Employer Summit or Business Summit scheduled for May, with Roswell as the anticipated location. While the details are still in the early stages, the summit is expected to be a half-day event. B. Silvers emphasized the importance of local input in determining the guest list and topics to be covered.

The second project revolves around discussions with several local libraries outside their usual areas. These libraries have expressed interest in hosting remote workforce locations to serve as access points. These remote locations would include a computer connecting users to online resources and a point of contact with a local office. There would be no physical presence at these library locations. While this project is still in the brainstorming phase, B. Silvers conveyed the enthusiasm surrounding the positive feedback received from the libraries.

R. Van Leuven commended the exceptional staffing efforts across all the locations, with over 90% of positions filled. R. Van Leuven acknowledged the dedication of area managers and program managers in hiring motivated individuals who respect the mission of the offices and work cohesively towards achieving their goals. Their collective efforts have led to outstanding outreach and customer service, positively impacting participants and visitors alike.

R. Van Leuven highlighted the commitment of staff members who willingly engage in community events, even on weekends, to represent the workforce. Their presence in the community reflects positively on the organization and enhances its reputation. R. Van Leuven also reported on lobby traffic, noting a steady increase, particularly in offices like Chavez County in Roswell, which saw a nearly 200% increase in the past year. Similar success stories were observed in Alamogordo and Lea County, demonstrating the impact of welcoming customer service on attracting more visitors. Overall, the dedication and effective hiring practices of the workforce played a significant role in these achievements.