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Special Populations Subcommittee Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023

Time: 1:30 pm MST

Location: Workforce Solutions Borderplex, Inc.
304 Texas Avenue, 1st Floor Conference Room El Paso, Texas 79901

Special Populations Subcommittee Members Present

Chrystal Davis, Chair
Robert Alcala
Bruce Biegel
Bob Gear
Maria E. Lopez
Oscar Lozoya
Nena Rios
Leah Wood
Rosalie Yañez

Special Populations Subcommittee Members Absent

Manuel Arias
Maricruz Chavez
Adam Tirres

Staff Members Present

Denisse Wiley
Dezeree Fraga
Janell Valles

Louis Castillo
Michael Velez
Michael Velez

Odette Flores-Ruiz

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTE OF QUORUM

(Chrystal Davis, Special Populations Subcommittee Chair)

Ms. Chrystal Davis, Special Populations Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm. Quorum was cited.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A: Student HireAbility Activity and Program Updates *(Dezeree Fraga, Program Specialist)*

- HireAbility Updates - Vocational Rehab, ISD and Education Service Centers Collaborations, and event updates
- Year-Round & Summer Earn and Learn

Ms. Dezeree Fraga, Program Specialist, provided updates on HireAbility and Year Round and SEAL. For the Year-Round program, 76 referrals were received and 75 participants completed. For the SEAL program, 95 referrals were received and 20 were completed, 63 participants are still active.

B: Updates and activities regarding Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers (*Odette Flores-Ruiz, Rural Development Project Manager*)

Ms. Odette Flores-Ruiz, Rural Development Project Manager, announced that there are 41 Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers and mentioned that staff have held health fairs to reach customers in the rural area.

C: Updates and activities regarding Military Initiatives (*Michael Velez, Program Specialist*)

Mr. Michael Velez, Program Specialist, discussed the Military Spouse Program, the Fort Bliss CSP Transitioning Service Members, the upcoming Hiring Red, White, and You job fair taking place on November 14th at the Coliseum. He also discussed the Fort Bliss Change of Command.

D: Foster Youth Updates (*Janell Valles, Nextforce Program Manager*)

- Pride Services
- Emergence MOU

Ms. Janell Valles, Nextforce Program Manager, discussed strengthening the Foster Youth program. Ms Valles is also focusing on strengthening our mental health programs for youth. This will include updating our MOW with Emergence Health Network and organizing additional services with our contracted licensed therapist that will begin October 1st.

E: Updates and activities regarding Justice-Involved Individuals (*Louis Castillo, Industry Project Manager*)

Mr. Louis Castillo, Industry Project Manager discussed the Re-entry Pre-Apprenticeship Pilot which serves recently released or terminated youth. This will include 480 hours of work-based learning Aftercare Mr. Castillo also presented on the UTEP Aerospace Center work-based learning CTE Pilot that will also include a WBL up to 480 hours.

F: Report on the number of customers with disabilities served, employment for customers with disabilities, foster youth, MSFW, justice-involved and veterans served (*Denisse Arrieta, Deputy Director*)

Ms. Denisse Arrieta, Deputy Director, presented the number of customers served since the last meeting: 417 individuals with disabilities, 36 foster youth, 82 MSFW, 799 veterans, 39 justice-involved, 390 re-entry, and 32 hires. Ms. Arrieta mentioned that there were 75 total Year-Round participants placed.

G: Area for discussion and feedback (*Dezeree Fraga, Program Specialist*)

Committee Member Leah Wood inquired about WSB and Region 19 hosting a similar event to Charting the Course due to pending Charting the Course event approval from TWC. Ms. Fraga will organize a meeting with Ms. Wood to brainstorm possibilities. Committee Member Maria Lopez requested additional support for Military Transitioning Service members at EPCC. Mr. Velez will follow up with Ms. Lopez.

3. ADJOURN

A: Committee Announcements

B: Discussion on items of interest for next agenda – October 5, 2023

Agenda items for next meeting: EPCC Military Transitioning Service Members; additional updates on the Red, White, and You job fair (Michael Velez); SEAL TWC; Region 19 Charting the Course (similar event, Dezeree Fraga).

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm