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Special Populations Subcommittee Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023

Time: 1:30 pm MST

This will be a teleconference meeting, see Notes section below the enumerated Agenda items for further instructions.

Disability Subcommittee Members Present

Chrystal Davis, Chair
Robert Alcala
Bruce Biegel
Maricruz Chavez
Bob Gear
Maria E. Lopez
Nena Rios
Leah Wood

Disability Subcommittee Members Absent

Manuel Arias
Oscar Lozoya
Adam Tirres
Rosalie Yañez

Staff Members Present

Dezeree Fraga
Diana Velazquez
Louis Castillo
Michael Velez
Myriam Guerrero
Yvonne Lopez
Zonia Sigala

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTE OF QUORUM

(Chrystal Davis, Special Populations Subcommittee Chair)

Ms. Dezeree Fraga, Student HireAbility Navigator called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm MST. Quorum was cited.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

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

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 711 (Voice) or 1-800-735-2989 (TTY) Igualdad de oportunidades de Empleo/Programas. Equipo auxiliar y servicios de apoyo están disponibles para personas con discapacidad al ser requeridos. Relay Texas: 711 (Voz) o 1-800-735-2989 (TTY)

- Explore Apprenticeship Project

Ms. Dezeree Fraga, Student HireAbility Navigator, discussed the networking event with the ISDs and the Education Service Centers, where students were able to practice their interviewing skills. Ms. Fraga said the staff would like to bring a Nextforce Internship – SPED with a disability at WSB. Regarding the Year- Round Work Experience FY23, the target is 75, there are currently 73 referrals received. The Summer Earn and Learn program is starting, the target is 95.

B: Military Initiatives Update (Michael Velez, Program Specialist)

- Transitioning Service Members
- Healthcare Cohort (Military Spouses)
- Fort Bliss Spouses Association
- Ft. Bliss CSP (Career Skills Program)

Mr. Michael Velez, Program Specialist, provided updates regarding the Pathway for Heroes grant, the Healthcare Cohort for military spouses, the continuing efforts to collaborate with the Fort Bliss Spouses Association and the Fort Bliss Career Skills Program.

C: Foster Youth Updates (Odette Flores-Ruiz, Youth Program Coordinator)

- Foster Youth Conference

Ms. Fraga mentioned that Ms. Odette Flores-Ruiz, Youth Program Coordinator, is at the Foster Youth Conference and will provide updates at the next meeting.

D: Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers Update (Yvonne Lopez, Rural Development Project Manager)

Ms. Yvonne Lopez, Rural Development Project Manager, discussed that the employment services liaison visited community-based organizations in January and provided updates.

E: 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. Zonia Sigala, presented the numbers of customers with disabilities served from October 2022 through March 2023, along with the numbers of Re-Entry partnerships and stated that there were 71 participants placed in the Year-Round program.

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

3. ADJOURN

A: Committee Announcements

B: Discussion on items of interest for next agenda – June 1, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm. MST