**GWDB Disability Equity Committee to Address Disparities for Individuals with Disabilities in Training and Employment**

**Meeting Minutes – January 2018**

Thursday, January 25, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ProAct, Inc.

3195 Neil Armstrong Blvd, Eagan, MN 55121

# Members Present

* Steve Ditschler, Chair
* Karla Eckhoff
* Ann Feaman
* John Fisher
* Allan Lunz
* Kim Peck (conference call)
* Jayne, Spain (conference call)
* Jennifer Winkelaar

**Guests Present**

* Cory Schmid, DEED Youth Services, DEI Coordinator
* Jennifer Nelson, DEED Youth Services, DEI Data Specialist
* Alyssa Klein, DEED Vocational Rehabilitation, Transition Special (conference call)
* Karen Lilledahl, DEED, ODEO
* Elizabeth Norman, Citizen (conference call)

**Staff Present**

* Connie Ireland, Executive Director, GWDB
* Lisa Snyder, DEED Workforce System Coordination, GWDB Committee Staff

# Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Ditschler called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Introductions of members in person and on the conference call were made. Connie Ireland noted modifications of the State Plan are due by March 15, 2018.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the December 19, 2017 meeting minutes were approved. Motion to approve the minutes were made by Chair Ditschler and second by Ann Feaman.

**Statewide Dashboard Application and WIOA Policies**

* **WIOA Dashboard Discussions**

DEED did not provide updates.

* **CLASP/WIOA Recommended Draft Policies**

CLASP contract ended end of December 2017, and draft policies are under DEED review. Committee asked the question: is it possible that the recommendations being made cannot adopt all titles?

Discussed was to continue work on efforts to increase capacity in the WFCs to serve individuals with a disability since resources are diminishing and are insufficient. Chair Ditschler expressed the importance of narrowing the committee’s focus to get work done as well as focus on credential attainment. Noted was how professional development falls under GWDB and the need to rebrand the way people with disabilities are served in the WFCs.

Also discussed was tracking individuals with a disability who register on DEED’s Event Calendar. Unless people disclose they have a disability, it is difficult to track them.

Ann Feaman and Kim Peck offered to provide resources to a citizen who called into the meeting and disclosed a disability.

**Committee Support**

* **Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Model**

The objective of the DEI model is to get individuals with disabilities employed. Cory Schmid and Jennifer Nelson from DEED presented details on the rounds of funding, participation rates, and end dates: Round 5 ends March 31, 2018 and Round 7 goes through 2020. Youth have the opportunity to finish high school, enter a welding training program or go to college, and go on business tours. Crucial to the model is the role of the Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) and partnerships. In round 7, all three sites – SW, CMJTS and Rural Cep – will send out referrals and collaborate. This is the core of the model: make sure all titles are working in one system; but protocols need to be in place to make that happen.

The DRC working in round 5 will move to round 7. The DRC’s model is to build coaches, increase capacity, and create bridges – eventually having all staff serve people with disabilities. Needed is benefit planning because of the complexity of each situation; specifically people with significant barriers and who are segregated. Alaska uses a 2-step training model that includes ground level information, benefit planning and employment. Minnesota needs to ensure training is consistent, standard across the state, and efforts are not duplicated. DOL provides material. PACER was referenced as a resource: an integrated team and is customer centered – provides families with training and technical assistance. PACER have multicultural advocates working with people in their ethnic community. Recommendation: look up YouTube on what integrated teams look like.

Noted was to look at factors that make that project successful and to focus on youth of color and rural areas.

**Planning**

* + The next 4 meetings will be held on Thursdays: March 1, April 5, May 3 and June 7, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at ProAct.
  + Discuss future work on the DEI Model
  + Review and discuss committee charter and workplan (send out before meeting)
  + Ann Feaman and Karen Lilledahl to present on Promising Practices (will send documents and link)
  + Lisa Snyder will visit 3 sites (SW, CMJTS and Rural Cep) and meet with the DRCs as well as continue work on getting a Wikispace set up.

**Meeting Adjournment -** Adjourned at 11:40 a.m.