

April 9, 2018

MN Department of Employment & Economic Development  
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E-200  
St. Paul, MN 5101

**RE: 2018 UPDATE OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL WDA #7 LOCAL PLAN**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires that local workforce development boards develop and submit a comprehensive 4-year local plan in partnership with the chief elected officials. At the end of the first 2-year period, local workforce development boards shall review the local plan and prepare and submit modifications to the local plan.

The local plan focuses on operating policies and procedures related to the workforce center system (one-stop system), and program/system operations. Below is a list of the modifications made to the South Central Workforce Development Area #7 Local Plan. A copy of the revised local plan is available on our website at: [www.workforcecouncil.org](http://www.workforcecouncil.org).

**Section B: Local Plan**

Item 2: Added the following language on the selection of the One-Stop Operator

- A One-Stop Operator RFP was issued and the consortium of core partners was selected to provide One-Stop Operator services. A One-Stop Operator agreement was entered into delineating the responsibilities and duties of the One-Stop Operator, including connectivity and coordination among the physical sites.

Item 3: Added the following language on the selection of the One-Stop Operator

- A One-Stop Operator RFP was issued and the consortium of core partners was selected to provide One-Stop Operator services. A One-Stop Operator agreement was entered into delineating the responsibilities and duties of the One-Stop Operator, including connectivity and coordination among the service providers.

Item 10: Updated language to include the completion of the Memorandum of Understanding.

- The South Central WorkForce Council in agreement with the South Central WDA Joint Powers Board entered into a memorandum of understanding with core workforce center partners and service providers in June 2017. The memorandum of understanding is in effect until June 30 2020, at which time it will be reviewed and amended as necessary.

Item 12: Added language on the new career academies initiative in partnership with the South Central Service Cooperative.

- The South Central WorkForce Council, in partnership with the South Central Service Cooperative, South Central College, six area high schools, and community organizations received a Greater

Twin Cities United Way Grant to build out and implement grades 9-14+ career academies/career pathway programs in the high wage, high demand industries of health care, information technology and manufacturing. The six pilot high schools were selected based on their percentage of diversity and percentage of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch. These career academies will offer high students sequential classes, work based learning opportunities, and supports that result in dual high school/post-secondary credits, credentials, and internships. This grant has provided us an excellent opportunity to further identify and align the expertise and resources of the partners to develop career paths for high school students in demand industries in the region. The career academies will begin the Fall of 2018.

Item 13 A.: Changed reference to Business Service Representative to Workforce Strategy Consultant

Item 13 C: Updated language on the Transportation Career Pathway:

- Individuals are then either placed with employers who will support CDL training/licensure or enrolled in WIOA for CDL instruction/licensure at training programs in the metro area.

Item 14 A: Changed reference to Business Service Representative to Workforce Strategy Consultant and added information on employer engagement activities.

- The MN DEED Workforce Strategy Consultant will develop industry-led sector partnerships, focusing on employers from the key industries identified by the WorkForce Council. Workforce Solutions Roundtables will be held in the region as well as Power of Different events that promote hiring of diverse populations.

Item 14 D: Changed reference to Business Service Representative to MN DEED Job Service staff

Item 16 B: Updated labor market information/employment needs of employers (see below). Also changed references to Business Service Representative to Job Service staff.

- Our local employers report that they are having a difficult time finding skilled labor. Currently, there is less than one job seeker for every job vacancy in the local area. Shortages exist in skilled, technical positions. Occupations that were identified as difficult to fill were: maintenance/boiler operators, skilled trade occupations including carpenters, truck drivers, skilled manufacturing mechanics and technicians, machinists, welders, entry level production workers, paraprofessionals/teaching assistants, lab technicians, physical therapists, physicians, and nurses/nursing assistants.

Item 23: Updated language on the completion of the Memorandum of Understanding and added another example of collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation Services:

- WIOA Youth Providers are working in collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the delivering of Pre-ETS services.

### **Section C: Program Operations**

No Changes

**Section D: System Operations and Attachments**

Item 8: Changed reference to ISEEK to Career Wise

Item 13: Changed reference to Business Service Representative to MN DEED Job Service staff

**Signature Page:** Updated Chair of Joint Powers Board and contact information; signatures obtained for plan update.

**Attachment A Regional Oversight Committee:** Updated Vice Chair of SC Workforce Council and Joint Powers Board

**Attachment B Local Workforce Development Area Contacts:** Last name of Christine Baumann changed to Olson.

**Attachment C Local Area Board Membership List:** Updated list

**Attachment D Local Area Board Subcommittee List:** No change

**Attachment E Local Workforce Development Area Sub-Grantee List:** No change

**Attachment F Local Workforce Development Area Non-WFC Program Delivery Location List:** No change

**Attachment G Local Workforce Development Area Key Industries in the Regional Economy:** Added Construction to the Regional Workforce Development Area #5 list.

**Updated the Southwest Minnesota Regional Profile to 2017 data**

Sincerely,



Diane Halvorson  
Executive Director

