



**BOONE COUNTY**  
UPWARD MOBILITY

## Jobs and Workforce Development Workgroup Minutes

December 18, 2024, 1:30PM – 3:00PM

Boone Electric Community Building (1413 Rangeline, Columbia MO) and virtually via Zoom

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**Attendees:** Stacia Wolfe (MO Department of Corrections), Jasmine Ramirez (MO Department of Corrections), Terra Eavenson (Connections to Success), Lisa Buchanan (Columbia Chamber), Jennifer DeLaporte (Columbia Public Schools), Brooklyn Hill (Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)), Megan Weaver (Moberly Area Community College (MACC)), Arissa Calvert (Millstone Weber), Russ Unger (Missouri Works Initiative), Ray Hall (Dream Tree Academy), Tara Shade (Woodhaven), Lisa Driskel-Hawxby (Regional Economic Development Inc (REDI)), Miles Gibson (First Last Mile), Lester Woods (Urban Empowerment), Conrad Hake (Love Columbia), Nikki Carter (MU), Verna Laboy (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD), Joanne Nelson (BCCSD), Emilio Ayala Youngblood (BCCSD), Kerby Webb (BCCSD)

**Meeting Objective:** Structure 2025 Jobs and Workforce Development Workgroup Efforts

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Verna welcomed all attendees and opened the floor for introductions.

### 2. Follow up from last meeting

#### a. Millstone Weber – Project PACE Overview

- Verna sent out links containing information from Millstone Weber.
- Arissa shared that Millstone Weber is working on construction to expand the I-70 highway. Besides construction, Millstone Weber also works on community building and other job and workforce development.

#### b. Other Updates

None.

### 3. 2025 Workgroup Plan

The group chose to continue meeting during the same time and at the same physical location in 2025 as well as having the Zoom meeting option. The group pointed out that there will be conflicts during holidays later in the year and the workgroup meetings will shift to avoid those conflicts.

### 4. Next Steps

- Lisa Driskel-Hawxby, Business Development Specialist at REDI, shared information on potential next steps for 2025 with reflection back on the Jobs and Workforce Development Mobility Action Plan. The action plan includes a mission statement, target audiences, and strategic actions and their contributing actions steps.
- The group took time to independently select which action steps that they would like to see prioritized. After attendees selected their area of interest, breakout groups were formed based on their indicated strategic action prioritization to discuss the contributing action



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steps in detail. Each group then shared a summary of their conversations with the rest of the workgroup.

### 5. Closing

#### a. Partner Updates

- Conrad from Love Columbia shared information about their website which is under development and showed the group how to navigate it. The website includes information about employment and how to obtain certifications for jobs/careers.
- The Journey Towards Inclusive Excellence (JTIE) committee will be hosting an Equity Lab on February 26th at 10:00am at Woodhaven's Palmer Training Center.
- Russ encourages all to look at the [MOWorksInitiative.org](https://moworksinitiative.org) website.

#### b. Comments and Questions

No comments or questions.

**Next Meeting:** January 22, 2025 1:30PM-3:00PM, Boone Electric Community Building or virtually [via Zoom](#).