



Jobs and Workforce Development Workgroup Minutes  
February 26, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM  
Columbia Public Library (100 W Broadway, Columbia MO) and virtually via Zoom

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**Meeting Objective:** Gather information on local programs and opportunities which support individuals to prepare for, seek, and maintain employment opportunities.

**Attendance:** Megan Weaver (Moberly Area Community College), Katie Siegel (Columbia Public Schools), Miles Gibson (First/Last Mile), Leslie White (Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)), Onni Flint (CMCA), Brooklyn Hill (CMCA – Skill UP Program), Tara Shade (Woodhaven), Liz Sensintaffar (JobPoint), Jennifer Delaporte (Columbia Public Schools), Lisa Buchanan (Columbia Chamber of Commerce), Annelle Whitt (Columbia Public Schools), Phil Peters (Grade A Plus), Verna Laboy (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Kerby Webb (BCCSD), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD), Joanne Nelson (BCCSD), Victoria Woods (BCCSD)

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Verna opened the meeting and everyone in attendance provided introductions, noting facilitator Lisa Driskel-Hawxby was absent.

**2. Targeted Program and Resource Sharing**

Gina provided a recap of the last meeting's discussion. The group agreed to proceed with compiling a list of employment resources. Members proceeded to share known resources for both employees and employers. It was found that more resources are needed for employers. Onni mentioned Central Missouri Foster Care and Adoption Agency has additional resources for youth transitioning out of foster care. Verna closed the discussion with plans to continue to compile resources as we progress.

**3. Workgroup Planning**

Gina recapped past discussion points on workgroup planning. This included balancing time in meetings between the three focuses (Upwardly Mobile Business Practices/Support for Justice Involved/Support for Youth). Gina asked for feedback regarding meeting set-up regarding how to determine meeting focus. No feedback was provided at the meeting – participants were encouraged to email any thoughts they have.

**4. 2025 Workgroup Plan Review and Updates**

Gina asked for feedback regarding the Workgroup Plan Document. The participants found that it has been helpful in keeping the groups organized and keeping people accountable.

**5. Next Steps**

Gina asked the group what they would like to focus on in the upcoming months. Onni suggested that the group focuses on youth in April as students are preparing to graduate. A brief discussion occurred over whether small groups should meet separately in between meetings. The group ultimately decided not to have a formal small group meeting and to proceed with the normal schedule. Katie Siegel and Megan Weaver proposed that small groups have the freedom to meet separately as they see fit, and the other participants agreed. The following months were planned out: March will focus on manufacturing; April will focus on strategies for youth; and May will focus on the justice involved population.

Follow-up tasks for the group were discussed. Workgroup participants were interested in continuing to use and update the workgroup planning document. All group participants will keep compiling resources for the



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Employment Resource List, and we will work to have the list available for review in April. Participants were also encouraged to send in flyers for information shared during partner updates to be shared with the group. Finally, it was decided to invite DJ Johnson from the Career Opportunity Training for Youth (C.O.T.Y.) Program to the April workgroup meeting.

## 6. Closing

### • Partner Updates

- Katie shared an update about Career Opportunity Training for Youth. They currently have 29 or 30 CPS students enrolled. Six students are attending Lux Beauty and are receiving dual credit from Lux Beauty and their high school.
- The Missouri Security Operation Center (MOSOC) Technology Certification is available for interested high school seniors and young adults through the [C.O.T.Y. Program](#).
- The Home Builder's Association of Columbia has opportunities to become an exhibitor, sponsor, or attend [Careers Under Construction](#) in April 2025. (flyers attached)
- Columbia Chamber of Commerce has some upcoming opportunities
  - [Business In Motion Expo](#) will be on April 17.
  - [Show Me Careers](#), which is a Missouri Chamber initiative, is a program to provide a hands-on learning experience on career pathways to educators and will happen in June 2025. A limited number of stipends paid by Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education are available for teachers from rural schools.
  - [World of Works](#) will provide a direct connection between students and businesses through activities to experience different fields. This event will now take place in September 2025.
  - Information about some [local job openings](#) was also shared.
- [Registration](#) is open for the Cycle of Success Training Program offered by The Source Summit Global.
- The QuesTec Open House in partnership with Columbia Public Schools was rescheduled to March 5. The QR code will still work.
- Flourish shared internship opportunities.
- Job Point shared they will have an Annual Awards Banquet will be April 1, they are enrolling for [Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning class](#), tentatively set to begin in May 2025, and have [Job Readiness](#) Training offered the first and third week of each month.
- Lisa Buchanan shared an employer resource [The Missouri Federal Bonding Program](#), a no-cost job-incentive program intended to increase hiring of job seekers and promotion of employees considered "at risk."

### Comments and Questions

**Next Workgroup Meeting:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM at Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI) Training Room (500 E Walnut St #102, Columbia, MO 65201) or via [Zoom](#)