



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Jobs and Workforce Development Workgroup Minutes

May 28, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM

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

Meeting Objective: Progress in workgroup efforts focused on individuals with justice involvement

Attendees: Lisa Driskel-Hawxby, Facilitator (Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI)), Megan Weaver (Moberly Area Community College), Alvin Cobbins (Minority Men's Network), Fred Saffold (Reentry Opportunity Center (ROC)), Brooklyn Hill (Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)), Onni Flint (CMCA), Sarah Shannon (CMCA), Syreta Toson (A Home for Her), Terra Eavenson (Connections to Success), Nikki Carter (University of Missouri (MU) Health Care), John Scalise (Job Point), Conrad Hake (Love Columbia), Nikki Chilton (St. Louis University Transformative Workforce Academy), Stacia Wolfe (Missouri Department of Corrections), Treale Kitchen (JBS Foods), Joanne Nelson (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD), Verna Laboy (BCCSD), Kerby Webb (BCCSD), Victoria Woods (BCCSD)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Driskel-Hawxby, the facilitator for the workgroup, welcomed everyone and allowed time for everyone to introduce themselves. Lisa briefly gave [background information on Upward Mobility](#) and the Jobs and Workforce Development workgroup, sharing about how all workgroups were birthed from the [Boone County Mobility Action Plan](#) which helps guide current efforts. As this workgroup has three areas of focus, each month is now dedicated to planning around a single content area (Implement Upwardly Mobile Business Practices, Increase Youth Leadership Opportunities, and Enhance supports for Justice Involved). Lisa reminded the workgroup of their Youth focused assignment last month with link to Google document to think about current group capacity to impact change in our community. Our challenge is to open the [shared Google document](#) and engage with it and start adding ideas to modify the strategy.

2. Spotlight: Supports for justice-involved individuals

Lisa invited those present to share information regarding the organizations they represent and the work they do to support justice involved individuals.

- Nikki Chilton with St. Louis University [Transformative Workforce Academy](#) shared information about their background and expansion into the Columbia area. They are currently partnering with in2Action for efforts in this region.
- Terra Eavenson with [Connection to Success](#) shared some background information on their services.
- Stacia Wolfe with [Missouri Department of Corrections](#) shared about how employers can conduct job interviews inside prison so individuals can be released with job waiting for them and the process for those that are seeking employment.
- Nikki Carter with [MU Heath Care](#) shared that some state and federal regulations make hiring justice involved challenging within healthcare so they may need to consider what options are available.
- Treale Kitchen with [JBS Foods](#) shared that employee retention and ensuring they have the support they need to stay employed is an aspect of her role.
- Fred Saffold with the [Reentry Opportunity Center](#) shared about the community support and resources they provide with Peer Specialists and other assistance.
- Conrad Hake with Love Columbia shared they have several social service programs to assist all people including [Career Next Steps](#) to provide options for upward mobility in careers.



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- John Scalise with [Job Point](#) shared their trades programs which quickly lead to employment opportunities. Job Point also does benefits planning for people who receive SSI or SSA benefits that want to go to work.

In discussing what might be actionable steps to further support those with justice involvement, workgroup participants brought up some challenges and approaches in engaging employers. Some individuals shared experiences in the sense that employers seem to be sharing a feeling of overwhelm with being approached from various programs so a group like this might be beneficial in streamlining communication efforts.

Potential opportunities were discussed to better understand employer needs while informing potential employers about the support and resources available. The availability of federal bonding and opportunity tax credits were provided as examples of resources available which may help address the perception that hiring someone with justice involvement could come with increased risk.

3. Workgroup Planning

a. 2025 Workgroup Plan Review and Updates Next Steps

The workgroup was encouraged to participate in contributing information/resources to the [shared Google document](#). A section will be added to collaborate further on this focus of supporting individuals with justice involvement.

4. Closing

a. Partner Updates

- Everyone was invited to participate in the ROC Adult Field Day on June 21, 2025, from 1:00pm - 4:00pm at 1621 Towne Drive, Columbia, MO where there will be food and games.
- CMCA has the Women's Business Center as a resource for those wanting to start a business.

b. Comments and Questions

The workgroup ended with no additional comments or questions.

Upcoming Workgroup Meeting Dates and Content Focus

- Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM – Implement upwardly mobile business practices
 - at Boone Electric Community Building and via [Zoom](#)
- Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM – Increase youth leadership opportunities
 - at Boone Electric Community Building and via [Zoom](#)
- Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM – Enhance supports for justice-involved individuals
 - at location to be determined and via [Zoom](#)