



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Jobs and Workforce Development Workgroup Minutes

October 22, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM

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

Meeting Objective: Continue discussion on reassessing how to approach the workgroup results statement.

Attendees: Lisa Driskel-Hawxby, facilitator (Regional Economic Development, Inc (REDI)), Conrad Hake (Love Columbia), Fontella Jackmon-Jones (Woodhaven), Kalynn Ramsey (Woodhaven), Kristalle Johnson (Connections to Success), John Scalise (Job Point), Lisa Buxman (Love Columbia), Megan Weaver (Moberly Area Community College), Mel Constantine Miseo (Flourish Initiative), Gina Jenkins (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Kerby Webb (BCCSD)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Diskel-Hawxby started the meeting by welcoming those in attendance followed by everyone providing introductions.

2. Review of workgroup efforts

Lisa Diskel-Hawxby provided some background of Upward Mobility, referencing the use of Results-Based Accountability and formation of workgroups. Areas of focus the Jobs and Workforce Development workgroup initially identified have previously made some gains, which prompted the workgroup to evaluate what would be of most benefit through this ongoing collaboration.

3. Workgroup Planning

a. Workgroup Plan Discussion

While the working definition of upwardly mobile business practices was previously adopted by the workgroup there has also been recognition that further input from the business community would be valuable. As the workgroup continues to identify how further collaboration could be beneficial, it was noted that this group could help everyone get to the next level of coordination and support since the same value of creating an environment where everyone can get and sustain employment is shared by everyone working together.

The workgroup discussed taking a slow and steady approach to present a united voice. Individuals reiterated support for this collaboration being viewed as a partnership that ultimately benefits everyone. Ideas for future opportunities to collaborate differently were mentioned as areas to explore. At this point, identifying employers who have been good partners was an initial step the workgroup plans to brainstorm with a plan to also work together to create a messaging and outreach approach. The goal of bringing everyone together for further discussion in January or February 2026 was suggested.

During discussion, the workgroup considered different categories which might be useful to think about when identifying employers that have been good to work with in the past, such employers which are justice friendly or those who have hired individuals with limited work history. Workgroup members suggested different employers, with those in attendance identifying direct contacts for each business.

b. Next Steps

- The workgroup plans to use the next meeting to work together to plan what a meeting together with employers in 2026 would look like. This would include creating an invite and clarifying next steps for planning how communication would be coordinated by the workgroup.
- Prior to the November workgroup meeting, everyone who volunteered to do so should add employer direct contact information to the shared workgroup document.

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- All workgroup participants were encouraged to complete the Upward Mobility Feedback Survey if they have not done so already. Plans for the workgroup moving into 2026 will be discussed during the November workgroup meeting and will be informed by survey results.

4. Closing

a. Partner Updates

- Gina mentioned flyers shared by Katie Siegel with Columbia Public Schools were shared in advance of the workgroup meeting and will be distributed to the workgroup.
- Love Columbia noted that some Jobs and Workforce Development workgroup members, Lisa Buxman, Lisa Driskel-Hawxby, and Nikki Carter, would be doing a panel discussion on the Career Next Steps website during the Source Summit on November 14.
- Gina shared updates for Boone County Community Services Department, noting conversations happening with other local funders for further collaboration. Questions from the workgroup about the Public Safety Childcare Center and jail navigator position for Boone County were answered.
- John said Job Point was among the organizations nominated as Columbia Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year along with Day Dreams Foundation, True North, Welcome Home and Woodhaven with the award to be announced November 12. John provided some information about Job Point pursuing becoming a public charter school and noted this would allow Youth Build to continue after grant funding ends in 2028 so it would continue to be an available choice without duplicating other services. Among other options, hair braiding was mentioned as a newer trades program available through Job Point.
- Mel said Flourish is in the process of recruiting work sites for 2026 and continues to be busy with the shelter, which can house up to ten youth, and outreach.
- Megan announced that Moberly Area Community College (MACC) will be offering a new Respiratory Therapy program in the fall which is being done in partnership with other colleges and universities. Prior to the launch of the aviation program in the fall of next year, MACC will offer an Introduction to Aviation class during the Spring 2026 semester which will expose individuals to different aspects of aviation. MACC continues to offer a variety of programs like the Mechatronics program and MACCLab Community Makerspace.
- Lisa Driskel-Hawxby reminded everyone to attend the REDI Annual Meeting on November 12 in the Tiger Hotel ballroom. There is no cost to attend the event, which will include guest speaker Michelle Hataway, Director of Missouri Department of Economic Development.

b. Comments and Questions

Lisa Driskel-Hawxby closed the meeting with a reminder of next steps and to expect future emails to prepare everyone for the next workgroup meeting.

Next Workgroup Meeting: November 19, 2025, 1:30PM – 3:00PM at Boone Electric Community Building – Watt Room (1413 Rangeline, Columbia MO) and via Zoom

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