

West TN Regional Planning Council

National Civil Rights Museum
450 Mulberry Street ▪ Memphis, TN
May 18, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

1. Welcome & Updates

The transitional West TN Regional Plan and individual Local Plans for LWDA 11, 12, and 13 were approved by the State Workforce Development Board at their May 12, 2017 meeting. Each local area is currently developing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with local partners to address service coordination and sharing of infrastructure costs. The process is different than in previous years and requires a great amount of detail and negotiations. The deadline to submit the MOUs to the TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development is May 31, 2017. Each area is also in the process of restructuring to ensure appropriate division of duties among the Local Workforce Development Board's Administrative Entity, Fiscal Agent, and provider of Title I services. Competitive procurement is currently ongoing in each area to select a One-Stop Operator and / or provider of Title I services by July 1, 2017.

2. Status of Coordination Projects & Next Steps

Each committee compiled information regarding applications, support services, and OJT contract processes in each area and have or will share with the other areas. Until the One-Stop Operators and providers of services are selected, next steps cannot be finalized. Committees have and will continue to share best practices to make adjustments to local policies and procedures to streamline services. The three LWDA 13s are in the process of developing a reciprocal agreement to honor the OJT contracts of other areas. The area in which the corporate office of an employer is located will be responsible for the OJT contract. Each office will continue to serve its own customers while the company is paid by the contract holder. The other areas will then be billed for any of their customers who are placed on the contract.

3. Methods for Addressing Soft-Skills Gaps

LWDA 13 is utilizing a soft-skills curriculum to train youth and will incorporate the training as part of an upcoming job fair. LWDA 12 is partnering with TCAT Jackson to utilize their Way to Win at Work curriculum through a pilot program at the American Job Center in Gibson County. Each area also utilizes Career Ready 101 which includes multiple modules on soft-skills and can be used by employers as part of their screening process.

4. Additional Next Steps for Consideration

The group discussed additional next steps for continued coordination throughout West TN including:

- Seek and utilize grant funding as a region to enhance and expand service offerings.
- Coordinate with employers to utilize resources and / or funding saved through OJT and IWT grants for other training needs.

- Maximize services through coordination with, and referral to, core and other partners including K – 12, postsecondary, SNAP E&T, RESEA, TANF, and others, as described in the TN WIOA Combined State Plan for 2016 – 2020 as well as the Service Integration Policy.
- Strategies for maximizing geographic advantages such as the Memphis Regional Megaproject, the Port of Cates Landing, and the Port of Memphis.

5. Future Meeting Dates

- July 19, 2017 – 10:00 am – Regional Planning Council Meeting (tentatively in Covington)
Gwyn Fisher with ECD will present on ECD's website (tnecd.com) and available data.
The site presents data regarding current projects and performance data.
- October 24, 2017 – 10:00 am – Regional Planning Council Meeting (Jackson)