



Greater Lincoln Partner Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 19th, 2022, 11:00- 12:30 pm

Vision

Empowering Nebraskans to achieve economic independence and thrive in work and life in partnership with local employers.

- **Introduction**-Presented by Ronesha Love, One-Stop Operator
- **Welcome**-reviewed agenda

- **AJC Staffing Updates**
 - **Welcomes:**
 - Susan Isabell, Adult/Dislocated Worker career planner, started 9/19/2022.
 - **Well Wishes:**
 - None at this time.
 - We are currently hiring for a full-time and part-time Resource Room Navigator.

- **Greater Lincoln American Job Center updates**
 - **Project Connect**
 - AJC, Title 1 B, Wagner Peyser and TANF will be partnering together to operate a table at Project Connect on 9/27/22 from 9:00-3:00p. Individuals can use the laptops to get a NE Works account created and other handouts provided regarding programs and job search services
 - **SCC tour for ETPL programs**
 - On 9/16/22 SCC hosted a tour of their medical building. The information was very helpful. They are willing to take anyone for tours of their new medical building. Ronesha will be setting up additional tours of the programs on the ETPL and will send an invite for those who are interested in attending.
 - **Referral page**
 - Referrals can now be made on the AJC site for partners at: <https://ajc.lincoln.ne.gov/career-planners/referrals/> . If you would like the contact information updated for who the referral should be send to please let Ronesha know.
 - **Waitwhile**
 - Our appointments page has been updated to include partners who will be in the AJC each month. Please encourage customers to schedule an appointment at: <https://ajc.lincoln.ne.gov/book-an-appointment/>
 - **Changes in the AJC**
 - Will bring back the VOS Greeter for check-in and Waitwhile for appointments.

- NDOL will be adding a new position for their Wagner Peyser program who will be housed in the AJC to assist with resumes, cover letters etc.
 - Trying to get as many partners into the AJC for Outreach, if interested contact Ronesha.
- **Customer Service Satisfaction Survey Summary**
 - 13 Customer Service Satisfaction Surveys completed for August
 - For August we received a 96.67% for satisfaction rate which brings us to an 98% overall satisfaction rate year-to-date.
 - Still working to increase the number of surveys received each month.
- **August traffic via Waitwhile**
 - Busiest days of the week are Mondays and Tuesday, next would-be Wednesday, Thursday then Friday.
 - Busiest hours still 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
 - August, we had 440 unique individuals come into the AJC; with 494 different reasons for visiting the AJC.
 - Assistance needed included: assistance with job search services, Program Matcher, Skills and interest assessments, training services and unemployment services.
- **AJC and partners referrals made for August 2022**
 - **Referrals made by AJC staff**
 - WIOA-61
 - Ticket to Work-2
 - Nation Able-4
 - **Referrals made by Wagner Peyser**
 - **DVOP-3**
 - **Supportive Services-49**
 - **Vocation Rehabilitation Services-2**
 - **WIOA Services-9**
- **One Stop Operator Contract Performance**
 - We are currently meeting all measures (Partner Forums, Walk-in Events, Monthly Communication to Partners, Monthly Job Fairs and Hiring event, and Customer satisfaction surveys).
- **September 2022, events**
 - 9/1/22, 10:00-12:00p - Outreach at Bennett-Martin Library
 - 9/19/22, 12:30-2:30p- Outreach at Walt Branch Library
 - 9/8/22 & 9/22/22- 10:00-12:00p- Health Care Association of Nebraska outreach
 - 9/12/22, 10:00-1:00p- Walk-in hiring event with Elwood staffing
 - 9/19/22, 10:00-1:00p- VITA services
 - 9/27/22, 11:00-12:00p- Lancaster County Health Department Medicaid and Marketplace Outreach.

- 9/27/22 11:30-3:00p- Virtual Hiring event: BNSF
- Every Wednesday, 1:00p-2:00p, Lincoln Literacy-AJC is a site for their basic math and reading course
- **Partner spotlight: Dawn Carrillo, Nebraska Department of Labor**
 - **Reach out to Dawn with any questions**
Dawn.carrillo@nebraska.gov or 402-471-9976
 - **Reemployment Programs**
 - **Services Provided in Office**
 - **Jobseeker Services**
 - Intensive Jobseeker Services
 - NEworks account cleanup
 - Resume (NEworks and offline)
 - Letters of Explanation
 - Cover Letters
 - Mock Interviews
 - Virtual Recruiters
 - Create very specific parameters for this
 - Search through dozens of jobs to send to jobseeker
 - Connect with community resources by providing valuable referrals
 - UI Meaningful Assistance
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 - **Business Services**
 - NEworks Training and Account Assistance
 - Update accounts with new contacts
 - Educate employers on how to use NEworks
 - New employer account vetting
 - Employer outreach
 - Comprehensive business needs evaluation
 - Share summary of employer needs with Jobseeker teams
 - Educate employers and advocate for the hiring of untapped labor pools
 - Plan and participate in job fairs
 - Discuss WOTC, Fidelity Bonds, LMI, RA, and much more
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 - **NEres**
 - **At a minimum, NEres staff are required to:**
 - Meet with individuals 1-on-1 and provide support in the development of an individual reemployment plan;
 - Provide customized career and labor market information;

- Enrollment in the Wagner-Peyser Employment Service; and
 - Referrals to reemployment services and community resources that support the claimant's return to work and help eliminate any barriers.
- **Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers**
 - Partner with proteus (National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP))
 - Looks different for each region
 - NEworks registration assistance
 - Connect them to training opportunities
 - Job search assistance and job referrals
 - Referrals to supportive services
 - Complaint resolution
 - **Veteran Services: We provide services to all veterans**
 - Veterans and eligible spouses receive access, on a priority of service basis, to the full range of public employment and training services, including:
 - Career assessment and counseling
 - Assistance with résumés, cover letters, and interviewing skills
 - Support services referrals
 - Job placement assistance and referrals
 - Information on careers, training, education, and financial aid
 - Labor market information
 - Assistance with navigating computer programs
 - Help with the online job application process
 - - **Veteran State Grant**
 - **DVOP**, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist
 - SBE Categories
 - 18 to 24 years old
 - A disabled veteran according to Veterans' Affairs or having a disability claim pending with the VA or were discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability
 - Homeless
 - Vietnam Era Veteran
 - Separated from the military in the last 36 months and unemployed for 27 or more weeks within the last year

- Criminal justice system involved
 - Lacking a high school diploma or GED
 - A public assistance recipient, or low income
 - A transitioning service member in need of career services
 - Member of the Armed Forces who is wounded, ill, or injured and receiving treatment in Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) or Warrior Transition Units (WTUs)
 - The spouse or other family caregiver of such wounded, ill, or injured member.
 - Provide individualized career services
 - Comprehensive assessment interviews
 - Career guidance services
 - Individual Employment Plans (IEPs)
 - Staff assisted job search
 - Staff-assisted career follow-up services
- **LVER, Local Veterans' Employment Representative**
 - Plan and participate in job fairs
 - Conducts employer outreach and advocates for hiring veterans
 - Coordinates with unions, apprenticeship programs, businesses to promote secure employment and training programs for veterans
 - Informs federal contractors of the process to recruit qualified veterans
 - Coordinates and participates with other business outreach efforts
- **Reentry Program**
 - Reentry Workshops in correctional facilities before work release
 - Address barriers
 - Digital literacy
 - Skills assessments
 - Quality community referrals
 - Job search, resume assistance, and letters of explanation
 - Work with employers and advocate for hiring individuals with justice involved backgrounds
 - Empower individuals with information to advocate for themselves
 - Fidelity Bonds and WOTC
- **Trade**
 - **Services Provided**

- Career and Training Guidance
 - Individualized Employment Plan
 - Workshops
 - Labor Market Information
 - Referral to Supportive Services
 - Skills Assessment
- Program Benefits and Services
 - Training - up to 130 weeks of classroom/online training in Occupational skills, Adult Basic Education, GED, Apprenticeship or up to 104 weeks in an OJT (On-the-Job) training.
 - Job Search Allowance - Reimbursement for costs of seeking employment outside of the worker's normal commuting area.
 - Relocation Allowance - Reimbursement for relocation costs for employment outside of the worker's normal commuting area.
 - Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) - Workers age 50 or over who get reemployed full-time at a reduced salary and earn \$50,000 or less each year may receive 50% wage subsidy for up to \$10,000 over 2 years.
- **FLC Housing Inspections**
 - Foreign Labor (H2A Visa)
 - NEworks Job Posting Follow-up
 - Employer
 - Jobseeker
 - Employers are required to provide housing
 - Housing Inspections are done by staff in each office
 - Ensure housing **meets federal and state regulations**
- **Unemployment Insurance (AJC)**
 - Works in resource room
 - Assists with questions about unemployment
 - Help individuals apply for unemployment
- **Additional Programs:** We do not administer these programs at a local level in our office, but it is our job to educate employers and individuals and connect them with these programs
 - Registered Apprenticeship: Educate and connect employers in creating Registered Apprenticeships. We also encourage adding their RA to the ETPL so that WIOA can help eligible individuals cover some or all of the cost of required materials, uniforms, or tools needed for the Registered Apprenticeship.

- Apprenticeship is a training program where individuals earn wages while they learn a skilled profession. Apprentice-able occupations may be found in construction, plumbing, electrical, healthcare, culinary arts and others.
 - To become an apprentice, individuals must;
 - be at least 16 years old
 - complete one to six years of paid, supervised, work based training and technical instruction to become certified in the profession of their choice.
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC): The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a Federal tax credit available to employers for hiring individuals from certain target groups who have faced significant barriers to employment.
 - **Veteran Target Group:**
 - Receives SNAP (food stamps) benefits: \$2,400
 - Entitled to compensation for service-connected disability
 - Hired one year from leaving service: \$4,800
 - Unemployed at least 6 months: \$9,600
 - Unemployed
 - At least 4 weeks: \$2,400
 - At least 6 weeks: \$5,600
 - **Other WOTC Target Groups:**
 - Short-Term TANF Recipient: \$2,400
 - Long-Term TANF Recipient: \$9,000 (over 2 years)
 - SNAP (food stamp) recipient: \$2,400
 - Designated Community Resident: \$2,400
 - Vocational Rehabilitation Referral: \$2,400
 - Ex-Felon: \$2,400
 - SSI Recipient: \$2,400
- Fidelity Bonds: The Federal Fidelity Bonding Program is a hiring incentive tool covering individuals whose backgrounds can pose significant barriers to securing or retaining employment.
 - \$5,000 worth of fidelity bond coverage for the first six months of employment or promotion.
 - Employers can apply for up to 5 bonds per person
 - There is no cost to employers.

- Layoff Aversion and Response: Educate employers on layoff aversion tools that are available to them before a layoff happens
 - Tools:
 - Short Term Compensation (STC)
 - Reduce hours between 10% and 40% for all employees or a group of employees, supplemented by a portion of UI benefits
 - OJT, Customized Trainings
 - Rapid Response
- Worker Training Grants: Employers, labor organizations, or other entities providing an apprenticeship training program may apply for a worker training grant
 - Nebraska Worker Training and Support Cash Fund may be used to provide training opportunities that:
 - expand the Nebraska workforce by increasing the pool of highly skilled workers in Nebraska;
 - support public and private job training programs designed to train, retrain, or upgrade work skills of existing Nebraska workers of for-profit and not-for-profit businesses;
 - recruit workers to Nebraska; and
 - train new employees of expanding Nebraska businesses.
- American Rescue Plan Act Grants:
 - **Nursing Recruitment and Retention Grant (NRRG)**
 - This grant program provides premium pay for positions filled by licensed RNs, LPNs, or CNAs who provide in-person patient care.
 - **Teachers Recruitment and Retention Grant (TRRG)**
 - This grant program provides premium pay to support the recruitment and retention of (1) educators in the subject areas of mathematics, science, and career and technical education; and (2) childcare and early childhood education providers.

- **Workforce Development Grants (WDG)**
- This grant program provides funding for businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, and other entities to provide eligible employment-related services to unemployed workers, underemployed workers, and other populations who suffered economic harm due to the COVID-19 pandemic
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- **Partner updates:**

- Amelia with UI- UI is hiring for adjudicators, field specialist, and other unemployment positions. Also, if a customer has been approved for UI and they are looking to be approved for UI Approved Training they must apply before they exhaust their UI. If they do not apply for approved training before exhausting UI benefits, they may be denied the additional 26 weeks of UI benefits.
- Courtney with LHA- LHA will be hosting their United Way campaign event on 10/18/22. Motor Food truck will be located at their office for lunch and a portion of the sales will go to their campaign.
- Ezzar with Catholic Social Services- Global a new community agency will be hosting a community event on 9/25/22 from 1:00-3:00p at the Elisey Library to discuss immigration concerns and issues related to citizenship. This event is open to the public.

Next meetings: Will return to the 3rd Monday of the month 11:00 am to 12:20 pm. Ronesha will send Zoom meeting invites:

- 10/17/22
- 11/21/22
- 12/19/22

- **Next step:** Partner Spotlight for upcoming months

- October Partner Spotlight
 - Amy Ortega-Bryan, Nebraska VR

**Looking for partner or local agencies who would like to present for November and December, please let Ronesha know if you are interested.

- **Meeting Adjournment:** Thank you!