

Develop a Skilled, Trained and Educated Workforce that Meets the Needs of the Area

Meeting Minutes from

July 18, 2017 | 11:00 a.m. Rainy River Community College | Room SC 114

Meeting Facilitator: Tammy Riley | Minutes Recorder: Sheila

The June minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Tammy gave an overview of the press release announcement that the Data Summary Report from the *Business Survey of Workforce Needs* is now available. The press release was sent to several media sources throughout the county, to members of the Voyage Forward Marketing Partnership, City Administrators, and the Chamber of Commerce. *The Journal* also wrote an article and editorial about the Data Summary Report. Every survey respondent was sent a direct email informing them the report was available on the VoyageForward.org site. Suggestion made to share the press release with the county board as well. Tammy will send it to Jenny Herman to distribute to county board members.

Feedback regarding the Data Summary Report has been positive so far. Interest shown by an RRCC instructor to incorporate “soft skills” education in a communications class.

There will be a regional Voyage Forward meeting held in Northome on September 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Northome City Hall. All are welcome to attend. Tammy will provide an update on the Workforce Development Destiny Driver and the Data Summary Report.

An initial request has been made to make a presentation about the Data Summary Report to KEDA on September 20th as well. Confirmation on this invitation will be forthcoming.

In-depth discussion on the next key strategy: Determine the Skills of the Existing Workforce. Need to look at what we want to gain from this

survey and how it correlates to the business needs survey. The process has begun to acquire information on developing this survey. Feedback has been received from Northspan, U of M Extension, DEED, and other contacts. At this time, no existing surveys related to identifying skills from the perspective of individuals in the labor force have been identified. Additional follow-up with sources will be conducted. Information received will be forwarded to committee members via email.

Conversation on the Voyage Forward initiative and the importance of ongoing public announcements about the Destiny Drivers and progress being made. This is probably something the Voyage Forward Coalition leadership should address.

Next Steps:

- Contact sources for information on upcoming or completed workforce skills surveys.

Next Meeting: A Doodle request will be sent to committee members to select the next meeting date.

Stewards Present: Kris Foss, Tammy Cook, Jean Evens, Nancy Rognerud, Bill Maki, Tammy Riley, Sheila Demenge