

Delaware County Workforce Development Board  
Planning Committee  
Wednesday, September 3, 1pm

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### **Agenda**

- Approve minutes from June 4 meeting
- Review progress towards strategic goals
- Open discussion

Delaware County Workforce Development Board  
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 4, 1pm via Teams

Attendance: Bill Tyson, Edessa Snyder, Colleen Duran, Jenn Kacimi (staff), Kate McGeever (staff)

**Committee Meeting Minutes from February 26:**

Colleen Duran motioned to approve the minutes. Edessa Snyder seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**Public Comment Period**

Kate McGeever reported that publicity for the public comment period included announcements in the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Delaware County Times. Notice was also given through the PA CareerLink® Delaware County's newsletter.

There was a SEPA Regional WIOA Plan Public Information Session - April 28, 2025 2:00 PM. Delaware County was well represented by Edessa and Bill Tyson. Bill commented that he appreciated the PowerPoint presentation. Edessa highlighted how Rapid Response seems like a more active effort in SEPA.

Kate offered a Delaware County Local WIOA Plan Public Information Session- May 5, 2025, 5:00 PM at the Chester City PA CareerLink®; however, no one attended.

The public comment period ended May 29. No public Comments were made.

Bill asked what comments PA Labor & Industry had provided. Kate shared that comments on the use of the apprenticeship model and regulations for TANF Youth supportive services were discussed as part of the L&I review.

**Next Steps**

Kate outlined the next steps: the planning committee recommends approval of the Local and Regional Plans to the full board, DCWDB votes at the June 12 meeting to approve the plans, the Board Chair and Chief Elected Official sign the Final Submission Form, the full package is sent to L&I then posted to the Delcoworks.org website.

The committee members discussed how frequently to meet after the plans' approval. The group decided to meet quarterly to monitor work toward the strategic goals. Kate will send out meeting invitations for September 3 and December 3.

## **Delaware County's Goals 2025-28: PY25 Q1**

**Goal 1 Maximize Use of Earn & Learn Models:** DCWDB will partner with Career & Technical Education providers and employers to increase the development and use of earn-and-learn models. Focus on employers' needs to develop registered pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, and integrated education and training programs. Recruit job seekers and youth who face barriers to employment or identify as part of underrepresented communities. Use supportive services and follow-up to ensure workers thrive in earn-and-learn employment.

- Through the Apprenticeships Building America grant, DCWDB has supported the use of apprenticeships by Mainline Health, Drexel University, the Finishing Trades, and Oliver Heating and Cooling.
- Staff met with Yeadon Borough to discuss an Incumbent Worker project for their Public Works Department.

**Goal 2 Increase Employer Engagement:** DCWDB will continue to increase the quality and quantity of services for employers. Anchor efforts to employers' feedback, labor market information, and partner input to ensure services engage employers. Focus on building relationships with employers in key industry sectors.

- The New Business Services contract includes increasing the holistic, consultative approach to employer engagement.

**Goal 3 Reach Tomorrow's Workforce:** DCWDB will partner with middle and high schools, post-secondary education and training providers, community-based organizations, chamber of commerce, and employers to develop services that will attract youth and prepare them to thrive in Delaware County's workforce. Reach youth with barriers to employment or those from underrepresented communities to experience work-based learning through summer employment, pre-apprenticeship, Registered Apprenticeship, internships, job shadowing, mentoring, and other experiences in the workplace, including developing employability skills.

- Through the Business Education Partnership grant, DCWDB is launching a job shadow day project.

**Goal 4 Continuously Improve the PA CareerLink® System:** DCWDB will use customer data and feedback to ensure the PA CareerLink® system offers effective, efficient, and comprehensive services. Offer on-site, virtual, and community-based services to engage hard-to-reach job seekers and employers. Engage all PA CareerLink® System core and additional partners to implement an effective referral process to address customers' barriers to success.

- PA CareerLink® staff are implementing a new referral tracking system.

**Goal 5 Help Vulnerable Job Seekers to Reduce Barriers to Employment:** DCWDB will provide a workforce development system that is job seeker-focused. Ensure services are delivered in a manner that is welcoming and supportive to adults and youth who face barriers to employment. Provide or refer to supportive services to address barriers including criminal background, lack of transportation, food and housing insecurity, lack of high-quality childcare, mental and physical health care, or disability.

Through the Veterans Employment grant, DCWDB is partnering with the Delaware County Military and Veterans Affairs Office and the Delaware County Public Defender's Office to reach justice-involved Veterans. The program can offer extensive supportive services including hotel vouchers, child care, cell phones, etc.

**Goal 6 Respond to Critical Labor Market Needs:** DCWDB will build relationships with employers in critical industries (including healthcare, manufacturing, public safety, and early childhood/K12 education) to ensure that the PA CareerLink® system is a trusted partner for recruiting, training, and upskilling the workforce. Leverage state and local resources to address workforce shortages. Advocate for policies that minimize disruption to the labor supply.

- Over the summer, DCWDB has actively worked to respond to the Crozer/Prospect Health Closure. Significant work has been done to help dislocated health care workers find new employment.
- As part of a regional response, DCWDB is supporting efforts by HanWha shipbuilders to align welding programs at the CTC and CC levels to prepare workers for their welding apprenticeship.