

Employment First Committee Meeting

Minutes

September 8, 2023, 9am to 10:30am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81300865066?pwd=K3pUQTYrT1daVHE5MGN4MIBDN2Y5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 813 0086 5066

Passcode: 548165

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Approve meeting minutes
 - Review agenda
-

Attendees: Jen Mendenhall - SRC/EFAP, Katie Taliercio - HCPF, Kodjo Akakpo - CDHS, Rachel Hoard - DVR, Katie Oliver - Dept of Education, Katherine Carol - EFAP, Emily Pfeif - DVR (minutes)

AGENDA

9:10 Member Update

Rachel

- Shantelle Rockman has had to step down due to workload, so Jen Mendenhall is chairing this committee with Katherine Carol.
-

9:10 Introductions

Jen

9:15 Transportation

Katie & Jen

- Katie Taliercio made a connection recently with Angel Bond of Mobility for All in Boulder and their organization has the potential to be a strong partner. Mobility for All is interested in having someone talk to their group about EFAP and they could speak to EFAP in October to discuss their mission and how transportation is connected to employment and to self-determination, as well as how to make transportation more available.
 - Rachel will plan to give them 30 minutes plus time for questions during the October meeting, and they may also present at an upcoming full EFAP meeting.
 - This discussion would tie in with the topic of e-bikes. The Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition is making e-bikes and three-wheel bikes more accessible to people with disabilities and especially those with stability issues. These bikes are very helpful for transportation and employment needs.
 - Jen Mendenhall will bring research on this topic to the next meeting.
 - Projects like these are examples of the progressive and innovative work going on that EFAP can include in strategic planning, and they provide context for what is happening currently and what the opportunities are to evolve in this field. Much is changing in the available technology. For example, one young man doing sales had marginal sales numbers until he posted on Instagram and sold out in 24 hours; this kind of impact changed his life.
-

9:25 Approval of Minutes

Jen

- Katherine motioned to approve the minutes from August 4, 2023 and Rachel seconded. There were none opposed and Katie Oliver abstained.

9:26 Full Agenda
EFAP Chairs Update

Jen & Katherine

- Since positions are opening up with Shantelle stepping away, this committee will need to consider leadership replacement and the experience necessary for committee leadership in the future. It is recommended that there be more than one co-chair to give depth to the leadership team. A discussion on leadership can be added to the full EFAP meeting in December.

9:30 Direction of Strategic Planning

Katherine & Jen

- There is a strategic planning meeting scheduled for this group next week and the agenda is currently open. Please send agenda items to Rachel.
- Katherine has volunteered to act as Chair for the interim.
- This committee will reach out to Kim, Shantelle, and Augusta for input on the process for strategic planning and will continue to move forward to set priorities for the coming year.
- A review of the past eight strategic recommendations and what has been accomplished will be included on the strategic planning agenda, as well as a discussion on what has changed in the interim.
 - Other topics to consider include:
 - What is happening in schools and transition programs
 - The redesign of HCPF case management and what potential gaps might be addressed by Vocational Rehabilitation or Education
 - Community funding for projects like the creation of fake towns to train people with disabilities alongside a discussion on values and best practices in the field
 - Focusing on those in the unhoused community with disabilities and how it might align with Denver Mayor Johnson's focus on homelessness
 - Gathering more information about what is happening out in the larger world and current trends
 - Aligning strategic planning with the outward facing process and being more strategic on a personal level
 - Communicating the good work going on such as raises for vendors
 - It is recommended to track whether or not an impact is made by vendor raises.
- For discussion at the next meeting, committee members are asked to each send a message to Rachel outlining the trends you're seeing in your community and what you foresee in the future.
 - For example: Teacher shortages and what EFAP can do, how can EFAP communicate more effectively using platforms such as the podcast, or creativity training for staff.

9:55 New Action Items

Jen & Katherine

- The Town Hall discussion will be tabled at this time, however Jen is interested in getting involved in the Workforce Development fair in Grand Junction in October—perhaps EFAP may have a booth there this year. Jen will send more information to Rachel and Augusta.

10:00 Adjourn