**ADULT EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS MEETING AGENDA**

DIVISION OF PK-ADULT INSTRUCTION & CAREER ENGAGEMENT

OFFICE OF ADULT EDUCATION

**JUNE 17, 2024**

1. **Welcome**

Mendy Marshall started the meeting at 10 AM on June 17, 2024, and the meeting was recorded.

1. **Introductions**

The following were in-person at the meeting: Mendy Marshall, Clinton Burch, Dr. Christopher Treadway, and Veronica Barron. The following were in attendance virtually: Elizabeth Bragg, John Holmes, Lorrie Smith, Michael Williams, Tina Payne (WVDE), Michael Crown, Kevin Bolen, Stephanie Ahart, Chris McCauley

1. **Purpose of the meeting**

Senate Bill 146 was reviewed and discussed. Adult Education is federally, and state funded. Currently, adult education programs do not charge a fee for services. Federal funds have been cut for the last two years, but Ms. Marshall has been able to shift funds so that no programs or services have been cut.

1. **Presentation**

Ms. Marshall shared a presentation that discussed the background and relation to WIOA. She also discussed federal requirements placed around adult education including the permissible activities, providers eligible individuals, available funding, how funding is distributed, and how long funding is granted (1 year). Other topics discussed are the number of statewide programs (68) including being housed in correction facilities (22), how these programs are flexible, certificates available, 17 college credits available through New River Community Technical College, enrollment, and demographics of participants.

1. **Discussion**

There was discussion around what defines an adult learning center and whether these are housed at Workforce One Stop Shop locations. Many times, adult education programs are housed in classes, libraries, or faith-based organizations. If there is room, the adult education programs are housed at Workforce’s One Stop Shop locations.

The group discussed whether programs should charge a fee to those seeking to use these services. However, Ms. Marshall shared that any income received for services are required to be reported to the federal government which would cut the funds that are received to support adult education. In addition, these programs serve those who have barriers to education and employment. By charging a fee, this would impose an additional barrier to these students. This brought up whether businesses should be charged. No, because many times these are small businesses that need employees trained but do not have the funds to provide the necessary training. WIOA is designed to assist employers with skilled workers.

Is the federal adult education grant sustainable? This year marks the sixtieth year that West Virginia has received funds.

1. **Questions/Recommendations**

Mr. Bolen asks that they not be required to RIF adult education instructors. It causes hardship for both the county and the instructor. No instructor has been let go.

Mr. Bolen would also like to see funding be able to build a building for the adult education programs.

Highlight all the services that adult education currently provides, including information about those served.

Ms. Brag will put information together on the Direct Support Professional career pathway currently in development for Mendy to include.

Ms. Smith asked that the report include how adult education provides free services to Jobs and Hope participants which allows them to fulfill the required training components of the programs and frees up Jobs and Hope funding for other needed support services.

1. **Future meeting dates**

The next meeting will be in September 2024. More information to come.

1. **Conclusion**

The meeting concluded at 10:59 AM and the recording was stopped.