



**BOONE COUNTY**  
UPWARD MOBILITY

Job and Workforce Development Workgroup Minutes  
May 27, 2026, 3:00pm – 4:30pm  
Boone Electric Community Building (1413 Rangeline, Columbia MO) and via Zoom

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**Meeting Objective:** Review local programs, compare them to existing credentials, prepare questions for employer outreach

**Attendees:** Lisa Driskel-Hawxby, facilitator (REDI), Austin DeHaven (City of Columbia), Damien Hegger (Truman VA), Everett Neal (Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)), Brandi Chick (Missouri Job Center), Katie Siegel (Columbia Public Schools), Nikki Carter (University of Missouri Healthcare), Brooke Eskridge (Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)), Kristalle Johnson (Connections to Success), Joanne Nelson (Boone County Community Services (BCCSD)), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD), Enola-Riann White (BCCSD)

1. Welcome
2. Follow up from last meeting
3. Updates on outreach
  - a. Enola provided an update on outreach efforts, mentioning Boone County Family Resources (BCFR) at the April meeting, and introduced Damien Hagger from the Truman VA. Damian, provided an overview of the VA's programs including transitional work programs and vocational assistance.
4. Employer Feedback
  - a. Lisa Driskel-Hawxby discussed the challenges faced by the workgroup, including the need for a clear purpose. She asked Enola and Gina to give historical context of the workgroup and the structure of the other workgroups: Early Grade Literacy, Affordable Housing Collation, and Housing Access and Support Alliance, to provide context in how work is being done in the other groups.
  - b. Lisa shared the feedback she received from employers which highlighted core job-ready qualities – especially attendance, teamwork, communication, adaptability, and willingness to learn as critical for long-term employment success.
  - c. The workgroup revisited its earlier discussion about a potential credential/badge and agreed to reconsider the overall purpose and direction of the workgroup. A potential coaching model, the Workforce Readiness Assistance Program (WRAP) in Audrain County, was reviewed. Overall the discussion included a shift toward coordinating existing efforts rather than creating new duplicative programs, and potentially serving as a cross-sector 'think tank' that supports job seekers and employers
5. Internship Framework – tabled
6. Partner Updates
  - a. See shared document "Partner Updates" tab
7. Next Steps
  - a. The workgroup will take a phased approach, starting with gathering a shared resource list of local programs. Lisa and Enola will research the WRAP Program and report back on their findings.
8. Closing
  - a. Lisa closed the meeting by encouraging workgroup members to invite additional partners who work with jobseekers and employers to future meetings.

**Next Workgroup Meeting:** June 24, 2026, 3:00pm – 4:30pm via Zoom or in person at Boone Electric Community Building (1413 Rangeline, Columbia MO)

**Upward Mobility is an initiative of the Boone County Community Services Department  
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