

**St. Charles County
Workforce Development Board**

Special Populations Task Force Meeting

Mission Statement:

Through collaboration, partnership and education, we will work to overcome barriers by advising the Workforce Development Board on the state of essential services and resources for the special needs population in St. Charles County, empowering them to pursue workforce success.

Committee: Special Populations Task Force Meeting (March 24, 2021)

Attending Special Tasks Force

WDB Members: Jeff Cartnal, Mandy Rose

Attending

Special Population Task Force Members:

Tammie De Los Santos, St. Charles Community College

Jim Ruedin, Delta Center

Jeremy Sutton, BCI Skills Center

Guests:

Kathy Robb, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

Staff: Jenny Warren and Kim Willis

1. Welcome/Comments
Jeff Cartnal kicked off the meeting, welcoming everyone.
2. Minutes from the last meeting: The minutes from the September 23, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Jim Ruedin made a motion to accept the minutes. Tammie De Los Santos seconded the motion to approve the minutes and all were in favor.
3. Discuss Special Populations focus and/or target groups for 2021: Jenny presented ideas on possible goals to focus on in 2021. One of the ideas was creating a pledge that business could take to hire individuals in special populations groups. In return we could possibly add them to our website or recognize them in some way. Jeff recommended pairing the pledge with presenting an award to a business who takes the pledge and work with special population individuals. Kathy mentioned presenting the award in a chamber meeting or somewhere with a broader audience where other employers could see the award being presented. Jim is going to reach out to Brown School along with other universities to see if they could assist us with this project. Mandy mentioned that VR would be a good resource to locate employers who do a good job of working with special population groups.

4. Updates from members

Tammy informed the group that the St. Charles Community College is collaborating with the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program and offering some classes. Social Skills/Life Skills, Crafting, Exercising and Beginning Photography and Beginning Cooking. The classes can be found on <https://stcharles.augusoft.net/>

5. Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.