

**Environmental Scanning Task Group  
Wednesday, August 1, 2018**

**Minutes**

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**Present:**

Toni LaBeff

Deborah Strong

Jim Swann

Dr. Josh Stewart

Linsey Harwell

Elaine Ezell

1. Dr. Stewart reported on his presentation of data submitted to the Steering Committee from the ESTG's meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>. He reported that the meeting went well. They were really interested in the college readiness of graduates at each school in our area. There was also some discussion on contact hour funding and budget funding. The meeting moved fast.
2. Toni reported that the committee had requested information concerning the demographics of students who were graduating from high school and not going to college. (from the last presentation) She checked into this but was not able to provide the data. Neither THECB nor TEA have this information. They simply match information based on social security number and no other data. There is no data available beyond the headcount.
3. Reviewed June 2018 current data from Texas Workforce that showed unemployment by county and current population survey. It included a Texas county map with color coding that clearly showed local unemployment as compared to surrounding areas.
4. Reviewed Northeast Texas Workforce Development Board Unemployment Data – June 2018. This report compared year over year comparisons by counties.
5. Reviewed East Texas Workforce Development Board 2018 Target Occupations with anticipated change in employment over a 10 year period 2014-2024.
6. Reviewed Target Occupations – Northeast Texas WDB which listed high demand jobs, the average hourly wage and typical education and training required for the positions.
7. Reviewed the Northeast Texas Workforce Development Area's June 2018 report comparing local unemployment to the state and national averages and the projected fastest growing industries in the Workforce Development Area.
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The committee consolidated the information and selected specific data to pass forward to the Steering Committee. Toni will prepare and present to the committee at their next meeting.

Other things we may want to look at:

Jim Swann requested that the steering committee seriously consider a viable strategy that would provide an affordable childcare option for students, possibly tied to an early childhood development instructional program. He stated that many young women with small children could really be impacted by the ability to attend college and sited a young mother who is currently attending classes while her young son watches her younger child in the hallway while she is in class. He suspects that there are many more young women in similar situations who could benefit for such a program.

Local population, business, and community resource data recently gathered by MPEDC – Toni reported that she has been in contact with Nathan Tafoya, Executive Director of the Mt. Pleasant Economic Development Corporation. She was expecting that information prior to today's meeting, but has not received it as of yet.