

Agenda Item: I.G.

DATE: November 19, 2009

SUBJECT: Making Opportunity Affordable-TN Adult Strategies Group Report

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Staff will present the report of the Making Opportunity Affordable-Tennessee Adult Strategies Group. This group was charged with formulating a comprehensive policy strategy for adult learners in response to the Making Opportunity Affordable policy audit, which identified adults as an area of high need for the state.

The group identified obstacles for adult students, administrators, and the state; reviewed data on adult students; discussed best practices from across the Southern region; and recommended policies to improve enrollment, retention, and graduation rates of adult learners. The policy recommendations consist largely of removing obstacles that hinder accelerated courses, prior learning assessment, and financial aid in addition to creating an Adult Degree Completion Program and providing adult student specific advising and student services.