

NORTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD MINUTES
The Center of Workforce Innovations Office
May 15, 2014

Present:

Michael Berta Jr., David Broad, Frank Cardello, Kris Emaus, Keith Kirkpatrick, Mary Lewis, Karen Morlan, Gary Olund, Arlene Pearson, Arnold Ransom, Bob Schaefer, Gerry Scheff, Judith Stanton, Dennis Wimer

Absent:

Maria Becerra, Tom Coley, Adam Collins, George Douglas, Melvyn Harding, Tom Hargrove, Kevin Kieft, Kristine Lukowski, Joe Medellin, Dan Murchek, Ron Schlatter

Proxies:

Deb Baughman, George Douglas, Gary Miller, Rick Rondinelli, Barbara Sacha

Staff:

Sue Bublitz, Nicholas Elliott, Crissy Dooley, Tammy Stump, Linda Woloshansky

CALL TO ORDER – 2:11 pm

Treasurer Bob Schaefer opened the meeting by welcoming all Board Members.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda, including the minutes of the last Board meeting, the dashboard, and performance information was presented to the Board for consideration. A Board Member pointed out a typo in the Department of Labor goal for Literacy and Numeracy. Tammy Stump said she would review and correct the data for the next meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Arlene Pearson and seconded by Gerry Scheff to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **The motion passed.**

2. REPORTS**Executive Committee Meeting – Keith Kirkpatrick**

Board Member Keith Kirkpatrick reviewed the items discussed during the Executive Committee Meeting that took place on April 16th.

The majority of the meeting centered on the Youth Provider Recommendation for Workforce Development Services because the outcome of their audit showed a net deficit and 0 cash available. The Executive Committee discussed ways the NWIWB could reduce/limit any liability they would have in working with this company. The decision was made to engage an accounting firm to assess WDS and what could be done and a spending limit to do so.

Motion: A motion was made by Keith Kirkpatrick and seconded by David Broad to approve the Executive Committee decision as presented. **The motion passed.**

The Executive Committee also discussed the idea of connecting the Region at the State of the Workforce Event being planned in November of 2014. Discussion was held regarding the purpose of bringing all these groups together but it is decided that this is a starting point for conversation. The goal is to learn what is happening now before deciding what the “end game” or the ultimate goal of discussion will be. The plan of action as well as the end goal will be developed by all groups involved in the conversation.

Motion: A motion was made by Gary Olund and seconded by Judy Stanton to open the State of the Workforce Event to other groups as presented. **The motion passed.**

Youth Employment Council – Keith Kirkpatrick

Board Member Keith Kirkpatrick states that the Northwest Indiana Times articles referencing the “My First Job” insert is moving along. He would like to see the articles featuring prominent community members explaining what their first job was and why it’s important hire young people. Mr. Kirkpatrick states that young people have to be given an opportunity to create a work experience.

In regards to the Work Ethics certificate Keith is happy to say it is now used in several high schools. The Youth Team also had a job fair that included in school youth and JAG students. Keith and Tammy Stump were happy to report that McDonalds out of Hammond said it was one of the best job fairs they attended. Ms. Stump will be making a presentation in LaPorte County later this month.

Keith Kirkpatrick notified the WIB that they are looking to add people to the Youth Employment Council. Two students have been added and he has been very pleased with the input they give. Having the students participate has helped give the Council some frame of reference and he is looking to add a few more High School students to the mix.

Because the newspaper articles are going to be targeted to adults/employers in the community and Michigan City no longer receives delivery of the paper, Board Member Judy Stanton suggests that the Youth Employment Council may want to look into different media avenues for their messages. Editor Bill Hackney of the Dispatch in Michigan City may be a good resource. Board member Mary Lewis states that this should also be brought before Steve Walsh because he may want to run this on the radio. Board Member Schaefer also notes that Ron Miller who has a business focused radio show that runs once a week may want to set something up for the Council.

Region 1 Works Council – Kris Emaus

The Work Council is seeking funds for projects. A State funded CTE awareness website is being considered. The site would focus on CTE, high demand/high wage jobs and will inform browsers of the career opportunities available. Board Member Kris Emaus states that Teachers and career counselors are not prepared with the new skills that the students need to learn, so they cannot teach them. The Council is looking at a variety of programs that would include workshops, tours, panels of employers, and other various methods to educate the counselors and teachers.

Next summer, summer camps for 8th and 9th graders have been set up to showcase different CTE career paths.

In the Innovative Curriculum grant, the Council has identified mechanical and electrical fields as a key skills gap from big industries down to small. A goal of the Works Council is to get business

people and educators to work together in the class rooms. A grant has been submitted by the Works Council to the Center for Education and Career Innovation Indianapolis on behalf of collaboration between Michigan City, A.K. Smith, Valparaiso, Porter, Hammond, Lowell, and the Crown Point CTE Centers. It includes funding, job shadowing, and tours offered by companies like NIPSCO, Fronius, and ArcelorMittal as well as other avenues of participation from companies that could not provide financial donations.

NAWB Report – Bob Schaefer

Board Member Bob Schaefer started by saying that he, Robyn Minton, and Roy Vanderford attended the NAWB Meeting this year. Of particular interest to him were the sessions that focused on hiring Veterans and reaching out to the kids ages 16-20.

Several parts of the Conference mentioned WIA reauthorization and it was not as controversial.

During one of the sessions the attendees discussed how employers need to be more specific when creating their job descriptions. The descriptions need to include all the soft skills that are necessary on the job and at the company.

Dennis Wimer who also attended the NAWB Conference mentioned that the job matching board company Indiana contracts called GeoSolutions has an application that makes Indiana Career Connect available for ipad and iphone.

The NWIWB meeting attendees discuss questions about unemployment in general. One Board member suggests that the state should consider a two step unemployment reimbursement program. The 1st level of those receiving UI dollars would get a basic rate, the 2nd level of people get an additional amount but they have to take extra steps and put in extra effort to be eligible for money.

3. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to Accept Funding

A resolution to accept funding was brought before the Board for consideration.

Motion: A motion was made by Dennis Wimer and seconded by Judy Stanton to approve the resolution as presented. **The motion passed.**

Plan Modification for Program Year 2014

The Plan Modification for Program Year 2014 was brought before the Board for consideration.

Motion: A motion was made by Mike Berta and seconded by Gary Olund to approve the Program Year 2014 Plan Modification as presented. **The motion passed.**

Member Resignation

Kevin Kieft's resignation notification was put before the Board for consideration.

Motion: A motion was made by David Broad and seconded by Mary Lewis to approve the resignation of Kevin Keift as presented. **The motion passed.**

5. STAFF REPORTS

Youth Council, Work Ethics Program – Tammy Stump

Tammy Stump presented the history of the Work Ethics program and the history of the Work Ethics Certificate.

The program focuses on attendance, absences, tardiness, discipline, organization, punctuality, respectfulness with not only their teachers but their peers as well, teamwork, and community service.

Both the parent and youth have to intend to participate fully in the program. Together they select four evaluators, implement all 8 characteristics of Good work ethic and complete the required community service. The goal is to have 100% of the schools in region 1 participate in the program by showing interest, being actively involved in some program aspects, or by completely integrating the certificate and program guidelines within their school.

The program is designed to assist youth in becoming work ready, encourage School participation in work ethic program, engage employers to interview and hire work ethic students and to put a greater focus on school to work path youth or those lacking evidence of work ethic basics.

6. SUCCESS STORIES

NIPN Success – Sharla Williams

Workshop Team Leader Sharla Williams presented to the Board two program participants of the Skills Building Institute. Monica English and Nancy Konospaseck spoke about their individual experiences in the Skills Building Institute and how it reshaped the point of view and provided them more confidence to go back out and look for jobs in today's workforce.

WIA Incentive Grant Opportunity

It is mentioned that the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced that eight states are eligible to receive incentive grant awards totaling \$9.9 million under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) based on their performance in program year 2012. Mr. Wimer was happy to say that Indiana was included in this list. Our state has exceed the performance levels for both WIA title II the Adult Education program and WIA title IB the Workforce Investment Systems, and is eligible for incentive grants.

The eight states include: Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Texas. The application will be created and sent in by the Governor's office and if the funding will be received instead of going to the Department of Workforce Development as it has in the past, it will go to the Center for Education and Career Innovations. The Department of Workforce Development has been asked to make recommendations on how it should be used.

Closing

Linda Woloshansky thanked everyone for attending the meeting and acknowledged extra effort made by Nicholas Elliott, Robyn Minton, Sharla Williams and Crissy Dooley.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

George Douglas, Secretary

Crissy E. Dooley, Recording Secretary