



Bay Area Workforce Development Board

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BAY AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2004

Present: Paul Linzmeyer (Chair), John Bloor, Paul Bredael, Rodney Cotillier, Jane Delveaux, Tonya Felhofer, Bob Guenther, Larry Harkness, John Haugh, Joe Hilke, Diane Koepke, Susan Kromm, Dennis Ladwig, Don McAdams, Bob Miller, Dee Olsen, Kris Parkansky, Reggie Phillips, Loretta Shellman, Jon Syndergaard, Dave Turbiville, Steven West

Absent: Nancy Armbrust, Larry Bergner, Bill Chaudoir, Rick Gerroll, Carmen Granados, Holly Hoppe, Jeff Knaus, Steve Kopecky, Dan Nerad, Pamela Phillips, Mari Roedig, John Schwantes, Pat Simonar, Roger Utnehmer, Michael Van Dyke

Mr. Linzmeyer called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM at the NWTC Center for Business and Industry. Roll call showed a quorum present. It was noted that Paula Van Straten has resigned from the board due to time constraints. The Minutes of the January 15, 2004 meeting were adopted as submitted on a motion by Dr. Ladwig, second by Mr. McAdams.

Executive Committee

ACS Corrections Project. A new federal budget was signed into law by President Bush on January 23, and a provision of the budget ended the Welfare-to-Work program and pulled back any unspent WtW funds as of that date. In the Bay Area, ACS, a private company, has been working under a WtW contract for the Oshkosh Correctional Facility project that assists prisoners making the transition back into the Bay Area communities. This has been a successful and innovative project. The Wisconsin Department of Corrections is willing to put \$10,000 into continuing the project, and the Executive Committee recommends adding WIA funds to continue the project through the end of the current contract on June 30, 2004. **Motion made by Mr. Bloor, second by Mr. Guenther, to allocate up to \$60,000 to continue the Oshkosh Corrections project through June 30, 2004. Motion passed on a unanimous vote with one abstention (Miller).**

Bay Area JobFIT. Nick Baus was introduced as the newest member of the project team. Mr. Donarski gave an overview of the pricing policy that the Executive Committee had adopted for the project. The underlying issue involved determining the Bay Area WDB's expectation of when this project would be financially self-sufficient. Based on the need to move toward self-sufficiency quickly, a pricing policy had been adopted that begins at \$1800 cost to an employer for a single job pattern and then reduces the cost based on the number of patterns purchased, up to \$1200 per pattern if 10 or more patterns were purchased. Based on some projections, this would bring the project near to paying for itself within an acceptable timeframe. There was

The vision of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board is that job skills and educational levels are increased, quality of life for all individuals is enhanced, while employers' needs are met.

considerable discussion about this issue, especially a concern about pricing very small employers out of using JobFIT. In the end, the members agreed with the Executive Committee's decision and requested regular updates on the JobFIT project.

NEW Economic Study. This project, subsidized by the Bay Area and Fox Valley WDBs, will provide a detailed analysis of the economy of a 16-county area in northeastern Wisconsin by June 30, 2004. The various local economic development agencies are very excited about this effort and involved in making it a success. Mr. Linzmeyer indicated that the project coordinators had addressed his concerns about unevenness in convening local focus groups to collect data, and he indicated how important this project is to helping the region meet the economic challenges it is facing.

State Legislation. Members received information about three Wisconsin Senate bills (SB 261, SB 310, SB 319), all of which addressed projects promoted by the Governor's Economic Growth Council, on which Mr. Linzmeyer serves. The State Assembly has stalled these bills in committee and the current legislative session ends in mid-March. The Executive Committee had adopted a resolution requesting that Assembly representatives act to bring these three bills to the floor for discussion and consideration before the end of the current session. Staff will provide information to help members make appropriate contacts with legislators.

Staff Business

Independent Audit. Members received copies of several relevant pages from the PY 2002 independent audit report from Wipfli Young showing no instances of noncompliance, no matters involving internal controls, and no questioned costs in their examination of the WDB financial and program records. The actual dollars audited represented a 60% increase from the expenditures audited the previous year. Mr. Bloor asked staff to check to see if the board was required to formally accept the audit document. The members commended the staff on their work in keeping the organization on the right path in complying with program regulations and in proper handling of public funds. There was also a page from the DWD financial audit of the current program year that should no findings or concerns.

WIA Older Youth Performance. Betty Gregory-Paasch addressed members' concern that WIA Older Youth programs have not met program performance requirements for two years now. She has been meeting with each of the contractors and working with them to improve performance. In some cases, improper information is being put into ASSET, the state data system, in others contractors need to provide better service to this population that is difficult to serve. Bay Area is working with North Central WDB staff provide special training for contractors in working with 18-22 year olds. Staff expects to see improvement in outcomes over the coming months. Despite the performance problems, the Youth Council recommended continuing to contract with the job centers for WIA Older Youth service provision. The WDB concurred for the coming program year.

WIA Younger Youth RFP. Staff will issue a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for WIA Younger Youth services in early March. There had been some discussion about whether the board should issue an RFP with a focus on specific target groups or services for the region, or whether the board should keep a broad focus and allow proposers to address local needs that may vary from one area to another. The Youth Council had recommended the latter option. **Motion was made by Ms. Shellman, second by Ms. Kromm, to accept the Youth Council**

recommendation and to allow them autonomy in the future to make decisions relating to the parameters of WIA Youth programs. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Updates. Mr. Linzmeyer noted that he and Mr. Golembeski had given a presentation, along with Dennis Nitschke, at a statewide Baldrige Conference at Alverno College last week. Wisconsin Forward Award had honored Bay Area WDB with an “Excellence at Work” award for efforts at public/private partnerships.

Board Business

Job Center Report. Brian Pelon reported that a group of job center representatives had formed the “Job Center Leadership Team” to serve as a conduit for communication and partnership between the job centers and the WDB. The JCLT supported the WDB’s efforts to develop a clear definition of its role and level of authority in the One-Stop system. They also encouraged WDB members, especially private sector representatives to visit job centers for a tour or to attend a management team meeting. Mr. Linzmeyer commended the group for getting together and stated the WDB’s commitment to work closely with them. Through the efforts of the Wisconsin Workforce Development Association, the UW Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS) will be issuing a report in early March that notes the importance of the Wisconsin One-Stop system, but also documents the negative effects of funding cuts on the job centers. The state Council on Workforce Investment, which Mr. Linzmeyer will chair, will take up the report early in its discussions.

Baldrige Assessment Update. Dennis Nitschke addressed the members and he reviewed the work of the small groups at the last meeting. Members received a handout summarizing that work and indicating the next steps to be taken to implement the Baldrige Assessment report. Two Action Items stood out: 1) developing closer linkages with the job centers (Leadership), and 2) developing metrics to recognize service excellence in the job centers (Recognizing Excellence). After discussion, the members decided to have the Executive Committee address the first of these and recommended that several job center representatives be invited to the next committee meeting to develop a strategy. It was also decided to have the Program Performance Committee build on work they have already done to address the second Action Item. Staff was instructed to schedule committee meetings just before the WDB meetings as was done a few years ago. All WDB members will be encouraged to attend the committee meetings. Mr. Miller suggested that the job center group provide additional information to supplement the COWS job center report. The Job Center Leadership Team will take this up.

Nominations. Mr. Golembeski explained that UW-Green Bay had requested a seat on the Bay Area WDB and had nominated Sue Hammersmith, the Provost, for that position. The University’s participation was welcomed by the members. Board members and Mr. Golembeski also need to identify appropriate private sector members to fill a couple of seats on the WDB.

Other. Ms. Olsen asked about how the Economic Opportunity Study results will be presented to the public in July when the report is issued. Mr. Golembeski responded that there is an oversight group that meets regularly which will answer that and that the economic development agencies will be asked to provide input on that question.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.