



## ***Bay Area Workforce Development Board***

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### **BAY AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

**April 15, 2004**

**Present:** Nancy Armbrust, Larry Bergner, John Bloor, Paul Bredael, Rodney Cotillier, Jane Delveaux, Larry Harkness, John Haugh, Joe Hilke, Holly Hoppe, Susan Kromm, Dennis Ladwig, Don McAdams, Dee Olsen, Kris Parkansky, Reggie Phillips, John Schwantes, Loretta Shellman, Pat Simonar, Dave Turbiville, Michael Van Dyke, Steven West

**Absent:** Bill Chaudoir, Tonya Felhofer, Rick Gerroll, Carmen Granados, Bob Guenther, Jeff Knaus, Diane Koepke, Steve Kopecky, Paul Linzmeyer, Bob Miller, Dan Nerad, Pamela Phillips, Mari Roedig, Jon Syndergaard, Roger Utnehmer,

Don McAdams called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM at the NWTC Center for Business and Industry. Roll call showed a quorum present. Senator Joe Leibham was introduced as were several guests. The Minutes of the February 26, 2004 meeting were adopted as submitted on a motion by Mr. Bergner, second by Mr. Van Dyke.

**State Senator Joe Leibham.** State Senator Leibham addressed the members, speaking of his efforts in the area of workforce development. Senator Leibham represents the 9<sup>th</sup> district, covering parts of Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties. He is a member of the Senate Select Committee on Job Creation. He described the legislative efforts this past year focused on getting the state budget in order and reviving the state economy. Several important bills have been signed into law this year, including legislation addressing business taxes and state regulatory processes. There needs to be serious effort toward partnering with businesses to address the need for retraining our unemployed and underemployed workers. The Senator noted that other states invested a great deal more in worker training than Wisconsin does, and he had authored the "Wisconsin Advantage Job Training Program" legislation that would allow technical colleges to issue municipal bonds to fund training programs. The bonds would be repaid by segregating the additional state taxes that trainees would pay due to increased earnings. Unfortunately, there were major changes made to the bill during the legislative process, and the bill, Senate Bill 451, was vetoed by Governor Doyle. He also noted efforts being made in the areas of infrastructure improvement and streamlining state agency processes. On a local note, he shared that the people in the 9<sup>th</sup> district are very excited about the upcoming PGA tournament at Whistling Straits Golf Course in August, and its economic impact for the area. Mr. Leibham wished the WDB well in its work to improve the state economy.

**Committee Meetings.** Mr. Turbiville reported that the Program Performance Committee reviewed draft job center metrics and also looked at a similar effort in Pennsylvania as a

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.

benchmark. Before the next meeting, the committee members will work to improve their draft document and then invite some job center representatives to join them in the discussion of that new draft. Mr. Hilke reported that the Job Center Development Committee held its first meeting and that funding issues were a key focus of the discussion, especially the need for funds designated for the job center as such instead of for the constituent programs. Mr. Nitschke and Mr. Golembeski helped to connect the discussion to the on-going Baldrige process. The discussion was forward step toward better understanding of the job centers and the WDB's role in advocating for them.

**Nomination of WDB Officers.** Members asked staff to gather nominations via e-mail and prepare a slate of officers for the May meeting. WDB members may nominate themselves or nominate others with their permission.

**WDB/LEO Agreement.** The formal Agreement between the Bay Area WDB and the Local Elected Officials Board is up for renewal. Mr. Golembeski reported that the LEOs have been very supportive of the work of the WDB, and have not expressed any concerns that need to be addressed. Motion was made to approve the existing Agreement for two years by Mr. Schwantes, second by Mr. West. Motion passed on a unanimous vote.

**Job Center Contracts.** The Executive Committee had recommended asking the job centers for updates of current plans rather than requiring they submit entire new WIA plans for the program year that begins on July 1. Members felt that the on-going Baldrige Assessment Project implementation would require sufficient planning activity on the part of the job center management teams. Motion was made by Ms. Shellman, second by Mr. Van Dyke, to renew existing WIA contracts with job centers with appropriate updates. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Updates.** Several other updates were provided. The WIA In-School Youth contracts are competitive, and a panel of Youth Council members will review proposals. A JobFIT report was provided, and contractors noted that sales have not met expectations yet, but a great deal of employer contacts are being made. The JobFIT database continues to grow and is that database of job seekers key to the success of this project. Mr. Golembeski noted that the Executive Committee had moved some funding into the Bay Area WDB budget to cover the administrative cost of JobFIT since the contract with Northwest CEP has been terminated and the JobFIT staff have become independent contractors.

WIA allocations for 2004 have not been received, so planning for the program year beginning July 1 has been slowed down. The Bay Area WDB and the Fox Valley WDB have been receiving a great deal of complimentary attention from local media because of the Economic Opportunity Study. The Milwaukee Business Journal also ran a story on this project. The Economic Study is moving ahead with the final report due at the end of June.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.