



Bay Area Workforce Development Board

317 West Walnut Street
Green Bay, WI 54303
(920) 431-4100
fax (920) 431-4101

BAY AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2005

Present: Paul Linzmeyer (Chair), Larry Bergner, John Bloor, Paul Bredael, Amy Du Bois, Bob Guenther, Larry Harkness, John Haugh, Penny Helmle, Joe Hilke, Holly Hoppe, Christine Jensema, Diane Koepke, Sue Kromm, Mike Lanser, Tony Marcelle, Don McAdams, Bob Miller, Dee Olsen, Reggie Phillips, Mike Ptacek, Chuck Rohlmeier, John Schwantes, Loretta Shellman, Pat Simonar, Mike Troyer, Dave Turbiville

Absent: Nancy Armbrust, Karen Besiada-Hansen, Bill Chaudoir, Rodney Cotillier, Rick Gerroll, Sue Hammersmith, Steve Kopecky, Jean Marsch, Jesus Panalez, Pamela Phillips, Michael Van Dyke, Corky West

Mr. Linzmeyer called the meeting to order at 1 PM at the NWTC Center for Business and Industry. Roll Call showed a quorum present. Mr. Linzmeyer asked everyone to identify themselves since there were a number of guests present. The Minutes of the January 20, 2005 meeting were adopted as submitted on a motion by Mr. Schwantes, second by Ms. Koepke.

SE Asian Resettlement Programs. A presentation on the resettlement of the new group of immigrants from Southeast Asia was given by Barbara Biebel (Catholic Charities), Hun Chen Ho (NEWCAP), Elizabeth Mahloch (Sheboygan County Human Services) and Joy Rautmann (ACS). Ms. Biebel described the immigration process. Catholic Charities covers all the Bay Area counties except for Sheboygan, as well as the Fox Valley counties. During 2004, her office served 96 new families with a total of 441 individuals, the largest number of individuals ever in a single year dating back to 1975. Mr. Ho, himself having come to America through the refugee camps in Thailand, described the employment services available to refugees at the Northeast Wisconsin Job Center. Ms. Mahloch stated that Sheboygan County has seen the arrival of 49 new families and a total of 272 individuals recently. Ms. Rautmann shared personal stories of her work with some of the immigrants. Mr. Linzmeyer suggested that the WDB Executive Committee or the Employers Workforce Development Network (EWDN) might be able to promote employer involvement in these resettlement efforts and he also suggested that the WDB hear from Lisa Schubert of the Wisconsin Literacy Council on the availability of ESL classes statewide.

Committee Reports. Mr. Linzmeyer spoke briefly about the state Council's upcoming meeting on March 4. The System Design Committee has been active gathering survey

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.

information and trying to set statewide priorities. The Council has been moving toward allocating some state WIA funds for regional economic partnerships, but not as quickly as he had hoped.

Mr. Hilke shared that the Strategic Leadership Committee had discussed WIA reauthorization and continued to discuss WIA funding priorities for the Bay Area.

Mr. Turbiville stated that the Program Performance Committee had gone over the Request for Proposals for WIA Younger Youth and discussed options for allocating Older Youth funds.

Board Business. Staff reported that they have not yet received PY 2005 WIA allocation amounts for the state office, so we do not know how much money we have yet, but the WDB needed to move ahead on the allocation process.

Motion was made by Mr. Harkness, second by Ms. Hoppe, to use the Job Center Performance Criteria developed by the Program Performance Committee as the basis for the required Job Center Plan document along with the specific WIA program description. Mr. Haugh reminded the members that the committee is requesting that incentive funds be built into the process for job centers that meet the performance standards by December 2006. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, second by Ms. Kromm, that the recommendation of the Youth Council be adopted to keep the WIA Younger Youth RFP open for subregions to identify local priorities rather than having the WDB prescribe the focus of the program services for the whole region. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Hilke, second by Mr. Guenther, to adopt the recommendation of the Youth Council to sole-source WIA Older Youth funds to the job centers but require a competitive process to allocate those funds. An RFP will be issued that only job centers may respond to, and funds will be allocated competitively based on the specific plans to provide services to the 19-21 age group. "History of demonstrated performance" will be considered as part of the proposal review process. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Members for the two review committees have not yet been determined.

WIA Reauthorization. Mr. Golembeski provided a presentation on federal efforts to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act. He prefaced his remarks by indicating that, while the legislative process is protracted and unpredictable, he felt that WIA stood a good chance of being reauthorized this year and wanted the WDB members to have a working knowledge of the key issues. There have now been bills introduced in both the House and the Senate to reauthorize WIA, and committee work has begun on them. In addition, President Bush has weighed in on reforming WIA through his budget proposal and with a number of independent initiatives. The presentation focused on these issues:

1. System structural reforms have been proposed that would break down barriers among partner programs to streamline administrative regulations while requiring better outcomes. In particular, the President and the House have proposed pooling WIA and Wagner-Peyser (Job Service) funds into 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.

- single block grant that would give state governors more flexibility in shaping the statewide One-Stop system. The President's "WIA Plus" proposal would include other funding streams as well.
2. Accountability for program outcomes would be improved by implementing the "Common Measures" across 29 different federal programs. This initiative is already well underway and should serve to make collaboration across program lines easier.
 3. There is an emphasis on raising the skill level of American workers through federal employment and training programs, so some proposals serve to break down the barriers among programs and give the consumer greater control over the training dollars they can access through the One-Stop system.
 4. Funding for Job center infrastructure has been a real concern since the implementation of WIA, and current proposals would give the governor in each state the authority to make provision for this vital function at the state level by requiring all WIA partners to contribute to a central resource fund.
 5. Partnerships with faith-based and community-based organizations continue to be an area of real interest to the President.

Mr. Golembeski emphasized the need for the state of Wisconsin to prepare for WIA reauthorization by articulating a clearer statewide vision for the One-Stop system.

Other Business. Dr. Lanser invited Bay Area WDB members to attend the Lakeshore Technical College Board meeting on March 16 to discuss LTC's mission and performance. Staff will issue an invitation via e-mail.

There is no Bay Area WDB meeting in March, and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.