



Bay Area Workforce Development Board

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board

Meeting Minutes November 10, 2005

Present: Paul Linzmeyer (Chair), John Haugh, Diane Koepke, Joe Hilke, Christine Jensema

Absent: Don McAdams, Bob Guenther

Staff/Guests: Jim Golembeski, Betty Gregory-Paasch, Debbie Spevacek, Carol Conway-Gerhardt

Mr. Linzmeyer called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. A quorum was present with some members participating by conference call. The Minutes of the July 28, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Ms. Koepke, second by Ms. Jensema.

The Northeast Wisconsin Job Center in Green Bay is going through a difficult transition. Brown County is pulling out approximately 45 workers by mid-December. At the same time, DVR is planning to move 21 workers in on July 1, 2006. Brown County administered the W-2 program until this year and owns a significant amount of equipment and furniture that will depart with their staff. Forward Service Corporation, the new W-2 contractor, will continue to provide W-2 services as a partner in the Northeast Wisconsin Job Center. There are cutbacks in other programs as well, and all this is happening at a time when there are serious efforts underway to renovate the building. Staff spoke about the need to have a quality job center in Green Bay and recommended investing some of the board's WIA funds to help get through this transition period and create a more attractive facility offering better quality employment and training services.

Staff recommendation is to allocate \$107,543 from the Job Center development funds that the Bay Area WDB had set aside this year. Funds would provide a contracted Job Center Manager for the transition period, reception services, a staff position for the computer lab, some equipment replacement and the cost of moving some partitions into the building. Some of this will need to be done immediately, so staff asked for approval from the committee, pending discussion at the full board meeting next week. Betty Gregory-Paasch is working closely with the Management Team on these issues. Mr. Linzmeyer requested more detailed information on the architectural plans for the building and staff will provide that as it becomes available. Motion to approve \$107,543 for the Northeast Wisconsin Job Center as recommended by staff was made by Ms.

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.

Koepke, second by Mr. Haugh. Motion passed on a unanimous vote with no abstentions.

Mr. Golembeski asked the members for their input regarding the on-going School-to-Work discussion that the Bay Area WDB is having at their meetings. In September members heard about the broad issues of connecting education to the regional workforce and they raised a number of issues regarding that connection. At the October meeting, speakers shared information about generational differences, successful school-to-work programs, and efforts to connect the technical college to area high schools through Tech Prep and Youth Options. The November meeting will feature a very successful business initiative from Hartford and information about new links between NWTC and UWGB.

Early in 2006, the Bay Area WDB will try to identify ways in which we can impact the way in which area students connect to the regional workforce, and Mr. Golembeski asked for input for that discussion. Mr. Hilke talked about the disconnect between employers and the K-12 system in many communities and asked how we might communicate directly with faculty, especially the guidance counselors in the schools. Surveying school guidance counselors about their work was suggested. Mr. Linzmeyer asked for information about the career planning system that currently is provided in schools. Carol Conway-Gerhardt, the CESA #8 Director, shared information about initiatives from the state Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and iterated CESA's goals to integrate New Economy skill training into school curricula and serve as a change agent for school structure. Ms. Jensema shared her thought that there is a very different mentality about the goals of education between school administrators and business leaders that might be productively addressed. She pointed out the lack of serious effort to connect career guidance to the regional economy.

Staff will develop these ideas for the WDB meetings early in 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.