



Bay Area Workforce Development Board

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board

MINUTES

September 9, 2004

Present: Paul Linzmeyer (Chair), Dave Turbiville, Bob Guenther, Diane Koepke, Joe Hilke, Don McAdams

Mr. Linzmeyer called the meeting to order at 11 AM. Most members participated via conference call, and a quorum was present. The Minutes of the June 25 meeting were adopted as submitted on a motion by Mr. Guenther, second by Ms. Koepke.

Several funding issues were discussed. Mr. Golembeski noted that there is approximately \$200,000 in unobligated WIA funds at the present time. Staff is very concerned that, with the local economy improving in Green Bay and Sheboygan, the WIA allocation next year will be significantly reduced, and recommend keeping some funds in reserve to create a smoother transition to future lower funding levels. The committee reviewed the following issues with recommendations to the full board for action.

The Wisconsin Workforce Development Association (WWDA) is a statewide association of the WDB Chairs, Chief Elected Officials, and the WDB Directors. For several years WWDA has been considering contracting for a staff position, and has been working on an arrangement with the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA). Last year the Bay Area WDB budgeted \$5,000 for WWDA support, but it was not used, so it was left out of this year's budget. It now looks as if the WWDA will move ahead with a contract with WCA, and staff requested that \$5,000 be added to the corporate budget for this purpose. The committee agreed to recommend added \$5,000 to the corporate budget for this purpose.

Staff has been exploring website alternatives for the Bay Area WDB. The progress of the Economic Opportunity Study has kept the WDB in the news, and a website is a standard way of connecting with people seeking information. No dollars were budgeted for a website project, but staff believes about \$3,500 would be needed. Staff was asked to consult with the Fox Valley WDB about a cooperative effort for a regional website featuring both boards. The committee recommended adding \$3,500 to the corporate budget for this purpose.

As we move into the implementation phase of the Economic Opportunity Study, there may be a need for dollars to fund projects. Mr. Linzmeyer recommended earmarking \$70,000 in available funds for yet-to-be-determined EOS projects. Specific projects would have to be approved by the Executive Committee. There was discussion about the fact that the two WDBs had already funded the study and that other partners would need to step forward to contribute their fair share

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.

to the implementation projects. The committee agreed to recommend earmarking \$70,000 for this purpose.

Two job centers, Kewaunee and Door, had submitted letters requesting additional funds for core services. The committee tabled the requests pending further information from the job centers.

There was much discussion about JobFIT. If the Bay Area WDB wishes to keep JobFIT going, staff suggested reducing its scope to Brown County only. That would require an additional \$32,000 for the license fee through June 30, 2005. Staff has concerns about how to make JobFIT successful without staff out promoting it, and since WIA funding cuts are expected next year, the long term viability is also a concern. The Fox Valley WDB is starting JobFIT slowly with a few companies, and they have a different pricing structure, but their program is still far from self-sufficient. Members recognized the quality of the JobFIT product, but recognized the cost is prohibitive at this time. No recommendation for further funding was made.

Mr. Turbiville reminded the committee that the Program Performance Committee is seeking a means of providing Incentive Award funds to job centers that meet the performance standards they are developing. There was no recommendation for such an allocation at this time.

Mr. Golembeski discussed staff concerns about WIA program performance in the year that ended June 30, 2004. Final numbers are not available, but preliminary numbers showed some areas of sub-standard performance, especially in the Older Youth program. For the first time, staff was able to break out WIA performance by job center, so staff has a better idea of where deficiencies are happening. These are being addressed, and there are opportunities to correct system data yet, so final performance numbers are not set yet. Staff noted that WIA Younger Youth performance, which is contracted competitively, was superior. Members spoke briefly about looking at competitive awards in the other WIA programs next year, especially for WIA Older Youth.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.