



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

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### **LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS BOARD of the Bay Workforce Development Area**

#### **Meeting Minutes January 22, 2004**

Present: Bruce Osterberg (Chair), Don Markwardt, Jim Gilligan, Cheryl Wruk, Richard Virlee, Elmer Ragen, Arlyn Tober  
Absent: Dan Haefs, Randy Reiter, Jerry Novickis

Mr. Osterberg called the meeting to order at NWTC at 1:05 pm. Roll Call showed a quorum present. The Minutes of the September 11, 2003 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Mr. Markwardt, second by Mr. Gilligan.

Members received handouts regarding the following items:  
Summary of Bay Area WDB Programs and Projects  
The NEW Economy Economic Opportunity Study  
Final Report – Continuous Improvement Initiative

#### **WDB Programs and Projects**

A summary of Bay Area WDB programs and projects was passed out and Mr. Golembeski gave an update on what was happening in each area. He noted the growing number of things that the Bay Area WDB is involved with. His remarks covered:

WIA Grants (Adult, Dislocated Worker, Older Youth, Younger Youth);

WIA Projects (Bay Area JobFIT, NEW Economic Opportunity Study, computer funds for the job centers, the Malcolm Baldrige Assessment Project, and a special projects fund);

Other Dislocated Worker Programs (2 National Emergency Grants, State Rapid Response Grant);

Workforce Attachment and Advancement (ended 12/31/2003);

Welfare-to-Work;

State Grants (State Council grants, Faith-Based Grant, Disability Navigator Grant);

Federal Earmark Grant.

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.

Mr. Golembeski gave a live demonstration of the Bay Area JobFIT project. JobFIT is an internet-based system that matches job seekers and employers. The job seekers post a resume in the database and also take a “soft-skills” assessment that measures their thinking style, occupational interests, and work behaviors. Employers can purchase a job pattern that allows them to search the database for appropriate candidates for available jobs based on the assessment as well as resume items. JobFIT is the result of the conversation between the WDB and the job center staff last year and a common desire to offer expanded services to employers through the One-Stop system. Bay Area WDB is also contracting for three Business Consultants who will assist the job centers in integrating this service into their systems and market JobFIT to employers. Several area employers are already using JobFIT.

Members also discussed the NEW Economic Opportunity Study. This project is an outgrowth of the need to replace the good-paying manufacturing jobs that are leaving the area with jobs that offer comparable pay and benefits. The economic development professionals, including those from most of our counties, are very excited about this investment by the Bay Area and Fox Valley WDBs. The final report is due at the end of June 2004, and will provide a solid blueprint for regional economic development.

#### **Federal and State Updates.**

Several short items were discussed. The Wisconsin Workforce Development Association (WWDA), which meetings Mr. Osterberg attends, is developing a set of metrics through which the 11 WDBs in the state can evaluate their status and work together to achieve statewide goals. WIA reauthorization continues to work its way through the US Senate, but very slowly. The Governor’s Statewide Workforce Development Conference will be held in Milwaukee on May 19-21 with a real focus on Governor Doyle’s “Grow Wisconsin” initiative.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM. The next LEO Board meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, 2004 at NWTC.