

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

May 27, 2004

Committee members Joe Hilke, Rodney Cotillier, Larry Harkness, and Reggie Phillips were joined by a large number of other WDB members and job center representatives. Mr. Hilke led a discussion with three questions:

1. What are we doing well?
2. Why are we here in this committee meeting?
3. How can we get the committee task to a manageable size and focus on no more than five things at once?

He also suggested adopting a name for the committee that would better reflect the group's purpose, and suggested the "Strategic Leadership Committee."

All present spoke about what the Bay Area One-Stop system is doing well:

1. Larry Harkness of Georgia Pacific spoke of the real value of the dislocated worker service GP had received recently through the job center.
2. Several others also mentioned the dislocated worker services available through the job centers and the technical colleges as an area in which we do remarkably well.
3. Some mentioned the process through which job seekers and employers are matched up through job center services as a real value coming out of the One-Stop system.
4. Some job center reps shared success stories or unique approaches in individual programs offered at the job centers.
5. The sheer volume of people served in the job centers throughout the area was quite remarkable, especially the number of dislocated workers.
6. Innovation to stretch available resources was important.
7. The quality of private sector leadership on the Bay Area WDB was noteworthy.
8. Some of the private sector participants mentioned successful business initiatives.

Secondly, the group focused on "why are we here?" A variety of answers were given:

1. Many were very interested in promoting healthy communication between the job centers and the WDB.
2. Several job center reps spoke of the passion and love they have for what they do.
3. WDB members want to understand more about the job centers and how they work.
4. The job centers have a role to play in regional economic development.
5. WE want to make NE Wisconsin an even better place to live and work.

6. Advocacy for various constituencies was important to some.
7. We want to be change agents.
8. Mr. Hilke shared his passion as an HR manager for assisting people to meet their potential.

Connie Hendries asked to speak for all the job center reps and expressed the desperate need for funding to provide core services in the job centers. This included front desk staff and employer services. She spoke well of what JobFIT does, but said that it was not the top priority, asking the WDB members to reconsider continuing to fund it. There was discussion about different models that might be used for funding the front desk in job centers. Some of the private sector members shared their own experiences with competition always pushing them to do more with fewer resources, so the experience was not unique to the job centers. Mr. Hilke encouraged all present to work together to find answers to the challenges we face together.

Mr. Hilke asked the job center representatives to come to an agreement on four individuals who could be the official committee members. Others will not be excluded; in fact other WDB members and job center reps are encouraged to attend committee meetings. He hopes to schedule another committee meeting at the end of June to follow up on several items. The job center reps should get four names to Mr. Golembeski by June 15.