



BAWD Newsletter / Issue #7 / Spring 2019

---

## BAY AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### THE IMPACT OF WORK RELEASE Jim Golembeski

I have written before about the quality of the potential workforce we have in the 23,000 men and women that Wisconsin incarcerates as well as the 66,000 individuals on community supervision in the state. Back in October, a Vice President of a large area construction company was with me at the Kettle Moraine prison near Plymouth for their annual Resource and Employment Fair. After interviewing some of the men who were within 18 months of release, he said to me: “Jim, I could hire an entire crew out of here and put them to work tomorrow!” Kettle Moraine has quality training programs in welding, masonry, and cabinet making among other things, so he found a skilled workforce ready to go.

The problem is that Wisconsin’s capacity for work release in the state prison system is very limited. As an example, the Kettle Moraine prison, a medium security facility, houses 1,200 men. The maximum security prison in Green Bay has 1,100 residents. But the work release center west of Green Bay, Sanger B. Powers Correctional, only has 120 beds. I think we are missing an opportunity.

About 25 years ago, a local glove making company donated a sewing machine to the Green Bay prison and received some positive publicity about providing a productive opportunity to the inmates. Unfortunately, about a month later, the same company closed a facility in a northern county and the publicity turned ugly. They were taking advantage of cheap inmate labor and taking jobs away from “Real Americans!”

Wisconsin’s economy in 2019 is a far cry from what it was in 1995. Many businesses, across industry sectors, are turning down work because they cannot find the workers they need. Given our workforce demographics, that doesn’t look as if it will change anytime soon. On March 1, 2019, there were 15,918 job orders listed on *Job Center of Wisconsin*, just for Northeast Wisconsin. And a job order often represents more than one open position.

It might be time to increase the work release capacity in our state prison system to help employers meet their needs. It would benefit the offenders as well. Our medium security

prisons house many men and women who are assessed as “low risk” and who have gained valuable skills in the prison training programs. It makes little sense to me to train a man as a welder and then have him sit for several years until he is released.

Think about this: 50 inmates released daily for full time work at \$12/hour would earn \$1,248,000 in wages per year. They would pay state and federal taxes, restitution, child support, room and board at the prison, and have some left for reentry expenses. And they would not displace any other workers.

---

**Sarah Klapper**  
Independent Living Coordinator



**Join us in welcoming Sarah Klapper to the Bay Area Workforce Development Board!**

**Tell us about your background.**

I am originally from Beaver Dam, WI. I completed my undergraduate degree at UW-Stevens Point in Health Science and graduate program at UW-La Crosse in Therapeutic Recreation. I completed a year term of AmeriCorps working with literacy initiatives in the Wausau School District. I am a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS), and worked for a year in an Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital Setting. Now, I am fortunate to work at BAWDB in an exciting new position!

**What interested you about the Independent Living Coordinator position?**

What initially struck me about this position is the endless possibilities of assisting individuals within our region to gain independence, vocational skills, and the role it could play in their life to successfully support themselves long-term.

**What has surprised you the most about this role &/or BAWDB?**

Several experiences have surprised me thus far, as I'm sure many more will! What stands out the most is the collaboration that individuals across several agencies have in order to achieve similar outcomes for our program participants. Which is a great surprise!

**Tell us a little about yourself.**

I have been married just over a year (for some reason I thought it was a good idea to do a winter wedding in Wisconsin). I am fairly new to the area, moving to Green Bay in the famous ‘April Snow Storm’ last year. I have played volleyball all my life, enjoy being outside, running, building/painting furniture, and traveling. No dog yet, but hopefully soon!

**Anything else you would like to share...**

Fun Fact: I love Starbucks and Culver's custard.



**Bay Area Workforce Development Board**

**Training, Tuition and Career Services for Retail Workers, Beginning in March 2019**

If you have been or will be laid off, or have received written notification from your employer from a retail store, a retail company's corporate office, distribution center or call center - you may be eligible for training, tuition and career services through the Dislocated Retail Worker Program, a new opportunity available in your community.

[Read to learn more](#) about the benefits for eligible workers

Contact:  
Bay Area Workforce Development Board

Email or Phone:  
[info@bayareawdb.org](mailto:info@bayareawdb.org) or (920) 431-4100



## CONNECTING JOB SEEKERS WITH APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Ryan Herber**  
*Business Solutions Specialist/Apprenticeship Liaison*

### **Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards - Improvements To Better Connect Job Seekers With Apprenticeship Opportunities**

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has recently launched a new tool to assist job seekers in searching for businesses who may have possible apprenticeship opportunities.

This is a great step forward in helping to better connect job seekers with potential apprenticeship careers. The company list will be continually expanding as DWD Apprenticeship Training Directors work with individual businesses.

Any business that would like to learn more about apprenticeship training, or how to become a featured sponsor on website, please contact: [ryan.herber@gotoltc.edu](mailto:ryan.herber@gotoltc.edu)  
Please see link: <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/featurd.htm>



## **Spring 2019 Lakeshore Community Job Fair** **Tuesday, April 9, 1-4 p.m.** **Blue Harbor Resort**

725 Blue Harbor Dr. Sheboygan, WI 53081  
<https://lakeshorecommunityjobfair.org/>

## **ADDITIONAL LOCAL JOB FAIRS**

**Manitowoc County Job Center - April 2 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Sheboygan County Job Center - April 4 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**College of Menominee Nation - April 10 from 1:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Brown County Job Center - April 25 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Sheboygan County Job Center - May 4 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Manitowoc County Job Center - May 7 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Brown County Job Center - May 16 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Marinette Job Center - May 22 from 1:00pm -4:00pm**

**Location: UW Marinette Fieldhouse**

---

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Administrative Professionals Day - April 24**

**Bring Your Child to Work Day - April 25**

A PROUD PARTNER OF THE **AMERICAN JOB CENTER NETWORK**  
(920) 432-4100 | [www.bayareaw.db.org](http://www.bayareaw.db.org) | [info@bayareaw.db.org](mailto:info@bayareaw.db.org) | 317 W. Walnut St. Green Bay, WI 54303