



Bay Area Workforce Development Board

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BAY AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES February 21, 2019

Present: Matt Rentmeester, Cheryl Neuens, Donna Janda, Jolene Wilkens, Cheri Galecke, Brian Ognacevic

Absent: Greg Middlesworth, Jolene Wilkens, Tim Beno

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM at the Fox Valley Technical College Public Safety Training Center by Mr. Rentmeester. A quorum was present.

Minutes of the January 17, 2019 committee meeting were adopted as submitted on a motion from Mr. Ognacevic with a second from Ms. Janda.

Job Center Facility Updates were provided by Ms. Gregory-Paasch and Mr. Golembeski. The situations described at the previous committee meeting are still in process. They had met with Dr. Rafn, NWTC President and discussed both redesigning the job center space in Marinette and potential options for locating a job center on the NWTC campus if the downtown location in Green Bay has to change. They also met recently with LTC President, Dr. Paul Carlsen. That conversation resulted in a commitment to convene a strategic planning group to think about “Job Center 2025” and consider what options might be available beyond the current job center format.

Job Center Updates were shared. All areas are dealing with the Shopko and Payless Shoes dislocations. Meijer is working with the job center in Sheboygan to speak to these workers and is working regularly with the job center to recruit employees. Most retail employees are still finding other employment quite quickly and are not interested in training opportunities. Bay Area WDB has received a Wisconsin Retail Dislocated Worker Grant and workers who are interested in training can receive up to \$15,000 in tuition reimbursement plus support services. Ms. Janda reported that services to the Kimberly-Clark workers in Neenah are still pending. Spring job fairs are scheduled. The Shawano Job Fair is on March 20 and many high school students will participate. The Lakeshore Job Fair is set for April 9 at the Blue Harbor Resort. The partners are arranging to provide transportation to the event for job seekers. In Brown County, board staff is working on putting together a page on the board’s website that will list job fairs, training, and other opportunities for the Community Corrections agents to assist them in working with the 3,753 individuals on active community supervision in Brown County.

MOU/RSA Update indicated that the discussion about partner sharing of job center infrastructure costs is on-going at the state level.

Business Services regional group meets regularly to coordinate outreach to employers. Wisconsin continues its very aggressive approach to attract military veterans to the state. The NEW Manufacturing Alliance has focused some of its efforts on veterans as well. Ann Franz shared information about a new survey opportunity from Element that NEWMA will use to ask underemployed 19-30 year old adults about their perception of manufacturing careers and about how they make career choices.

Bay Area WDB, serving WIOA Title I, is an Equal Opportunity Service Provider and Employer

serving Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee,
Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano and Sheboygan counties.

Strategic Issues discussion began with outreach to the ALICE population/underemployed. Members reviewed and discussed some data from New Mexico on the “benefit cliff” that results in significant loss of public benefits such as FoodShare, child care, and healthcare as earned income increases. Sometimes career advancement results in a net loss of available household income. Staff will try to get similar data for Wisconsin to see how the benefit cliff comes into play here. Mr. Golembeski also noted some recent data he had received from our local Labor Market Analyst, Ryan Long, indicating that the unemployment rate for males ages 25-35 in Wisconsin is 4.5%, a full percent higher than the state average. Whatever the reason, there may be some recruitment opportunities there.

Job Center Quality Improvement efforts continue, focusing on services to the underemployed and mid-career professionals. Ms. Tara Stevenson was introduced as the new Career Center Manager at the Brown County Job Center. She is an employee of the Labor Education and Training Center (LETC). Plans continue to introduce the Human Search Engine program there as soon as we can catch up with Chris Czarnik for training.

The committee meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM