



Bay Area Workforce Development Board

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BAY AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES October 17, 2019

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

Absent: Greg Middlesworth, Cheryl Neuens, Tim Beno

Mr. Rentmeester called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM at the NWTC Great Lakes Energy Education Center on the Green Bay campus. A quorum was present.

Minutes of the May 23, 2019 committee meeting and September 19, 2019 joint committee meeting were adopted as submitted on a motion by Ms. Galecke with a second from Ms. Janda.

Job Center updates were shared. Sheboygan has experienced a number of small dislocations recently, most notably affected were office staff at Bemis (30 people) and Kohler (80 people) many of whom received outplacement services. The national strike at General Motors is beginning to have ripple effects throughout the auto supply chain and companies in Sheboygan are caught in that situation. There are still many employment opportunities in Sheboygan and Manitowoc. The recent Lakeshore Job Fair attracted 171 job seekers and 94 employers. Sheboygan and Menasha Job Service workers are staffing the new job center at the Taycheedah women's prison on Wednesday and Thursday each week and initial reports are very positive.

In Manitowoc, the Trade Act petition for Tramontina has finally been received and intake is beginning. There have been some reduced hours and voluntary layoffs at a couple of companies. Enlightened companies are hesitant to let workers go because they will be hard to replace when they are needed.

The Computer Lab at the Menasha job center is now closed. Bay Area WDB had provided funding for it for several years but can no longer support it. The area has experienced some small retail dislocations. Job Service has several staffing vacancies in the Fox Valley with no timetable for filling them. The job center in Oshkosh is now closed as well.

Ms. Franz conducts quarterly meetings in Marinette bringing manufacturers and educators together to address workforce needs. The new NWTC "Earn to Learn" program is particularly interesting. 30 area companies are already engaged in a program in which high school students with some technical college credits are hired by the companies upon high school graduation. The young people then work part time and attend NWTC to finish their Associate Degrees with tuition paid by the companies. Area K-12 schools have also been integrating employability skills into their curriculum.

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

Ms. Gregory-Paasch noted that DWD has informed her that the Door County Job Center will remain a designated point of service with DVR staff there permanently and Job Service staff there on an itinerant basis. The status of the Manitowoc facility is unknown as WIOA Title 1 has pulled out, but Titles 3 and 4 may stay engaged. As partners work through the realities of Resource Sharing Agreements, the number of DWD computers for Job Center of Wisconsin is being reduced because of the cost at \$800 per month when a laptop computer can access JCW over the Internet. Bay Area WDB continues to lease space in Aurora at the NWTC facility. There are challenges in Shawano because no Job Service staff goes there and WIOA staff are not authorized to provide resource room assistance, so there is JCW equipment with no staff oversight.

Mr. Golembeski reported that despite the issues DWD had with the procurement of the Human Search Engine program for some of the Shopko employees, 44 individuals signed up to use HSE, 90% of whom were professional people with postsecondary degrees. The evaluations that were received were positive overall. In particular, the format of having a facilitator in the job center assisting individuals as they went through the videos and workbook was very well received. Unfortunately, due to budget concerns, the Career Lab in Green Bay is now closed. Some good things were learned in this pilot effort.

Ms. Gregory-Paasch reported that the Resource Sharing Agreement, required under WIOA for partners to support the job center infrastructure, will likely go to arbitration since DVR pulled out of the agreement that had been hammered out.

Mr. Herber pointed out that November 11-17 is National Apprenticeship week. He is working closely with the College of the Menominee Nation on apprenticeship outreach and credited Ms. Gregory-Paasch for creating such a productive relationship with CMN. There is also increased interest in some of the state prisons in apprenticeship programs. He had a number of inquiries at the recent Resource Fair at Kettle Moraine Correctional.

Ms. Franz gave a brief summary of all the events coming up associated with “October is Manufacturing Month.” NEWMA is also sponsoring a survey of workers ages 18-30 asking why they chose manufacturing as a career, why they like Wisconsin, and what job search tools they prefer. Mr. Golembeski reiterated information from the recent report from Forward Analytics about the demographic challenges facing Wisconsin.

Ms. Wilkens provided a demonstration of Job Center of Wisconsin, the primary job search resource provided by DWD. She noted that currently there are 3 job postings for every one job seeker in the system. JCW has a number of tools to assist job applicants in developing resumes, completing applications, and preparing for interviews. Employers could encourage candidates to utilize those tools. In particular, the resume program is very detailed and assists job seekers in putting together a precise, focused, and professional resume, often providing drop down choices to provide words that job seekers can incorporate into their resume.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

The Strategic Leadership Committee will meet next on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 11 AM at Bellin College in Green Bay.

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Additional information, and auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities, is available by contacting James M. Golembeski, EO Officer at jgolembeski@bayareawdb.org | (920) 431-4100 | TDD/TTY Dial 7-1-1 Toll-free