

IOWA PLAINS COMMITTEE

Date: June 13, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM

Facilitator: Holly Espenhover-Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

- Andrea Mann (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Andrew Sheffield (CJ Bio America)
- Brittney Gutzmann (Vocational Rehabilitation)
- Carolyn Farley (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Cassy Bennett
- Elizabeth Waigand (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Faith Miller (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Holly Espenhover, Chair (UnityPoint Health)
- Kathy Leggett (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Kent Heronimus (Interstates)
- Linda Rouse (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Luke Huggins
- Pamela Wooldridge
- Renea Anderson (Harrison County Development)
- Ryan Spratt (Wells Enterprises)
- Sara Blair
- Tammi Erlbacher (Life Skills Connections)
- Teresa Larson-White (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Wayne Pantini (Southwestern Community College)

NOTES:

Linda Rouse and Teresa Larson-White began the meeting with a Job Corp update. A temporary restraining order is in place which is allowing Job Corp to continue to work with students who were close to completion of programs. Some students had already gone home, however. Outreach was completed to obtain referrals for all affected Job Corp students to Title I. So far, there has not been a huge response, but the team is hopeful that more referrals will come in. A Worker Information Meeting was done for Job Corp staff in Denison on Tuesday, June 10th. The Mobile Workforce Center was on-site for this event to support efforts to register staff for work. It is likely that another Worker Information Meeting will occur after June 17th.

Tammy Erlbacher provided the One-Stop-Operator update with the following:

- Core partner meetings are going well. Everyone seems to have a pulse on who does what and who they need to contact for different matters. The partners will be putting a focus on co-enrollments moving forward.

- Wednesday staff trainings are going well. Partners take turns planning content and great collaboration is happening for these.
- Customer service surveys continue to sound about the same as last month. Responses on customer service remain very positive. Tami does send these out to managers to help drive responses and staff training.
- Tami noted that a One Stop Certification meeting will be coming up soon.

Linda Rouse and Carolyn Farley provided an update on the Iowa Plains Dashboard project. Carolyn is wrapping up inputting some data, which will be given to IWD's Labor Market Information group. The LMI team will create a web-based dashboard that can be shared with all Iowa Plains committee members. Numbers will be updated monthly. Committee members will be able to manipulate the dashboard to obtain information they wish to see. All data will be given to the LMI group by Monday, June 16th.

Teresa Larson-White shared a success story of a dislocated worker from the Spencer area who completed truck driving training, successfully graduated, and obtained a great job as a result.

Linda Rouse provided an update on the Federal Budget and the Iowa Plains budget for the coming year. A federal budget has not yet passed at this time, but word has been given that Title I will be funded again for the coming year. Linda provided some insights from a speaker at NASWA regarding potential WIOA reauthorization but stated that at this time nothing is certain. Iowa Plains should have carry over funds to bring into the coming year to assist with funding local area needs.

The MOU and IFA are done but are presently waiting on two signatures. This should be wrapped up very soon.

Kathy Leggett talked about the Healthcare Credentialing Grant and the hospitals who received funds to further workforce training.

Kathy also spoke about the desire to create a partnership between IWD, workforce boards, economic development entities, chambers, employers, etc.... to establish an employer driven team of people working to increase work-based learning opportunities. Several committee members expressed interest in this idea.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will take place on July 11, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.