

IOWA PLAINS COMMITTEE

Date: 12/12/2025

Time: 8:30 AM

Facilitator: Holly Espenhover-Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Linda Rouse – Iowa Workforce Development
Andi Barnes – Iowa Workforce Development
Randall McQueeney – Iowa Workforce Development
Tammi Erlbacher – Iowa Workforce Development
Faith Miller – Iowa Workforce Development
Andi Mann – Iowa Workforce Development
Brittney Gutzmann – Iowa Workforce Development
Elizabeth Waigand – Iowa Workforce Development
Teresa Larson-White – Iowa Workforce Development
Melissa Haukap – Iowa Lakes Community College
Wayne Pantini – Southwestern Community College
Pamela Woodridge – Western Iowa Tech Community College - IWD
Nicolas “Omar” Valentine – Iowa Workforce Development
Holly Espenhover – UnityPoint Health
Kent Heronimus – Interstates

AGENDA

One-Stop Operator Report (Tammi Erlbacher)

- Centers are ready to go for certifications (Feb/March). Determined with Title III managers what core partners we need to reach out to get certifications to happen.
 - Must have a business executive from our committee present.
 - Must be in person.
- Each title 3 manager wants to get an email out to those who want to participate. Council bluffs, Spencer, Denison, Sioux City.
- Feb 9th 9:30 Am Sioux City, Feb 16th 9:30AM Denison – tentative dates the partners are available. Business representation: Holly to Denison & Cassy to Sioux city.
- Need more participation from businesses on this committee. Action plan for getting them on the calendar: Asking for continued participation – need businesses to do the certification.
- *Report attached*

Executive Committee Membership (Holly Espenhover)

- 75% annual participation requirement for membership going forward. Requesting validation or if they want their names removed. Requesting email communication by end of month, so we have a clean membership copy to start 2026 off.

Referral Outcomes (Elizabeth Waigand)

- Met with Promise-Jobs program to partner. They have people who are looking for work and needing job search. Discussed transitional jobs to help gain soft skills and on the job training (OJT).
- Paid internships – PJ sends a lot of people to school, they more than likely don't have experience, so we can help with paid internships.
- RESEA scheduling issues, they are working on being fixed.
- What happens when we get referrals. This is a program for establishing relationships and helping them become successful. If we wouldn't enroll them, look at the why (skilled and in an in-demand occupation already).
- How can the customer experience be better. Following up and making sure we are doing the best we can.
- Goal: every business once a month discussing workforce needs.
- Goal: User friendly for everyone – simplifying.
- How to start the conversation for how it works for each business (candidates). How to get people to pick up the phone to make the connection.
- Reverse referral form – Elizabeth to send. Elizabeth will explain process at January meeting. What it looks like from the business perspective, can set up additional 1:1's if needed.

Q: Wayne – adopting a platform to get an industry recognized credential. Rolling out after the 1st of the year. Trying to package a career pathway outside of CNS specifically for manufacturing. The idea is for them to come to our campus and do training in our computer lab. Is there funding for someone who isn't able to do it themselves? Would someone off the street be able to get assistance while working in the field.?

A: Teresa – if they are in Title 1, we could get them on the ETPL. On the employer side, OJT. No limitation with online training, it's consumer choice. Teresa will reach out to Wayne to get on ETPL list. Linda added – out of school youth would be great for this.

Overview of Goals (Holly Espenhover)

- 2024-2028 is the program year plan.
- Going into 2026, center ourselves in the areas around our goals – what we are doing and where we are going. The purpose of Iowa Plains. Goals should be our forefront. Core purposes of what we are doing.
- Intention is to increase employer participation, awareness, and engagement.
- Due to staffing adjustments during Federal shutdown, data on the dashboard was not updated. Omar & Linda circling back to LMI to get updates.
- Going into 2026 standing agenda: OSO, dashboard, quarterly updates.

ACTION PLAN

Requesting membership validation or removal via email communication by end of month.

Next meeting – January 9th, 2026 / 8:30am – 9:30am

Iowa Plains One Stop Operator (OSO) Update

November 2025 Updates

Provided to Committee: 12/10/2025

OSO: Tammi Erlbacher, LifeSkills Connection, Inc.

Certification Requirements

Certification scheduling was discussed in December partner meeting and each center reviewed which partners will need to participate. Centers would like to have these scheduled in February or March.

Monthly Survey Results

- 71 Paper/QR Code Surveys
- 13 Statewide Surveys
- **84 Total Surveys**
- Overall Satisfaction Average (Scale 1-4): **3.85**

November Staff/Partner Trainings

- 11/5- DV
- 11/12- Title III

Core Partner Meeting

- No meeting in November

Business Engagement Consultant (BEC)/Title I Collaboration Meeting

- 11/4

OSO Center Presence

- 11/3 Fort Dodge
- 11/4 Spencer
- 11/6 Harlan Library Event
- 11/12 Denison
- 11/13 Denison
- 11/17 Community Partner Collaborative Event

Iowa Plains Referrals

- 114 Referrals on Iowa Plains Referral Form
 - 9- IVRS
 - 2- Job Corps
 - 3- SCSEP
 - 16- SNAP E&T
 - 7- Title III
 - 15- Title II
 - 1- GAP/PACE
 - 2- American Indian Council
 - 50- Title I Adult/Dislocated Worker
 - 6- Title I Youth

Of the 56 people referred to Title I, 5 have been enrolled in Title I, 25 are in the enrollment process and 26 are not enrolling due to lack of communication by the participant, not qualifying or other reasons.