

IOWA PLAINS COMMITTEE

Date: February 13, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM

Facilitator: Holly Espenhover / Kent Heronimus

IN ATTENDANCE

- Andrea Mann (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Andrew Sheffield (CJ Bio America)
- Chris Wurth (Siouxland Human Investment Partnership)
- Elizabeth Waigand (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Faith Miller (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Holly Espenhover, Chair (UnityPoint Health)
- Kathy Leggett (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Kent Heronimus (Interstates)
- Kristin Russell (Spalding Equipment)
- Linda Rouse (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Melissa Haukap (Iowa Lakes Community College)
- N. Omar Valentine (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Randall McQueeney (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Renea Anderson (Harrison County Development)
- Sara Blair (Country Maid)
- Tammi Erlbacher (Life Skills Connections)
- Teresa Larson-White (Iowa Workforce Development)
- Wanye Pantini (Southwestern Community College)

AGENDA

- **New Committee Chair (Holly Espenhover)**
 - Kenter Heronimus from Interstates will assume the chair position for the Iowa Plains Executive Committee beginning February 2026.
- **One-Stop Operator Report (Tammi Erlbacher)**
 - **Monthly Survey Results**
 - Survey responses were lower than previous months, yet the satisfaction level for January 2026 were at same level of previous months.

- **January Staff/Partner Trainings**
 - Iowa Department for the Blind (January 7, 2026)
 - Center-Specific Trainings (January 14, 2026)
 - Title I Program (January 21, 2026)
 - Center-Specific Trainings (January 28, 2026)
- **One Stop Certification Update (Tammi Erlbacher)**
 - Sioux City and Spencer One Stop Certification have been completed.
 - Denison is schedule for Monday, February 16, 2026.
 - Council Bluffs is scheduled for next Thursday, February 19, 2026.
- **Title I Success Story (Teresa Larson-White)**
 - Matt B - 44 year old, multiple barriers to employment including a criminal history that was holding him back from finding employment. He has received several rejection letters from applications he had sent out. He was enrolled in Title I where we provided funds so he could obtain his CDL and with the help of the BEC in the Sioux City office, we were able to provide him an opportunity for an OJT with GCC Alliance Concrete Inc. in Sgt. Bluff where he is now earning \$25.27.
 - Kameron - 19-year-old youth participant from Spencer in our Title I youth program. Had been working a part time job as a cashier at a local convenience store making \$15.00. The program has previously assisted Kameron in obtaining his high school diploma. Kameron was very interested in working full time and he had interest in working on cars. Our Title I Career Planner and the BEC out of the Spencer office worked with the business, Jackrabbit Junction in Sibley Iowa, to set up an OJT in their car repair shop where Kameron is learning car repair along side experience mechanics. He is working full time and earning \$17.00 per hour with the expectation of a raise once he completes the OJT.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - **Sioux City and Denison**
 - February 18, 2026: IowaWORKs/Western Iowa Tech Community College Healthcare Job Fair
 - February 18, 2026: Presentation at Denison Chamber of Commerce
 - February 25, 2026: Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn Community School District Career Connect
 - March 18, 2026: Ridgeview Career Day
 - **Fort Dodge and Spencer**
 - February 6, 2026: Career Tip-Off Hiring Event
 - February 27, 2026: Stewart Memorial Hospital Hiring Event

- March 5, 2026: Iowa Lakes Community College Spring Career Fair (Emmetsburg)
 - March 6, 2026: Iowa Lakes Community College Spring Fair (Estherville)
- **Creston (Mobile Unit)**
 - February 18, 2026: Southwest Iowa Community College Creston Campus
 - March 4, 2026: Southwest Iowa Community College Red Oak Center
 - March 18, 2026: Southwest Iowa Community College Osceola Center
- **Council Bluffs**
 - February 17, 2026: Employer Spotlight (Fortrex)
 - March 17, 2026: Employer Spotlight (Fortrex)
- **IowaWORKS for Veterans**
 - March 3, 2026: Council Bluffs/Omaha Metro Area Combined Hiring Event
- **American Job Center Updates (Andi Mann / Faith Miller / Randall McQueeney)**
 - **Creston American Job Center (Randall McQueeney)**
 - Physical has been closed and services provided through Southwestern Community College, community libraries and the [IowaWORKS Mobile Workforce Center](#)
 - **Council Bluffs American Job Center (Randall McQueeney)**
 - Increasing outreach in the local community through Title I Program Youth Career Planner and Business Engagement Consultant.
 - Wellness Fair (February 17, 2026)
 - **Fort Dodge American Job Center (Faith Miller)**
 - Recent relocation of office; remodeling project starting soon.
 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Career Fair coming soon.
 - **Spencer American Job Center (Faith Miller)**
 - Working with local re-entry program to provide job skills and placements.
 - Working with local business to provide a job fair onsite on February 5, 2026.
 - Rapid Response took place on February 5, 2026.
 - **Sioux City American Job Center (Andi Mann)**
 - Working with local re-entry program and transitional shelters to provide job skills and placements.
 - **Denison American Job Center (Andi Mann)**
 - Job Corps is back in operation and collaborating with the Denison American Job Center
 - Partnering with Title II Program to offer more services.
- **Committee Attendance (Kent Heronimus)**
 - Request to add new membership connected to local businesses and employers.
- **Committee Member Share – What Workforce Issues are You Experiencing?**
 - Identifying local avenues and organizations to connect with to provide information about the services provided through the Iowa Plains American Job Centers.
 - Utilizing [IowaWORKS](#) for job postings and employment opportunities.
 - Possible adjustments to the [Iowa Jobs Training Program \(260F\)](#).

ACTION PLAN

- **Next Meeting**
 - March 13, 2026 / 8:30am – 9:30am / [Microsoft Teams](#)

Iowa Plains One Stop Operator (OSO) Update

January 2026 Updates

Provided to Committee: 2/13/2026

OSO: Tammi Erlbacher, LifeSkills Connection, Inc.

Certification Requirements

Certifications for all Iowa Plains One Stop Centers have been completed and are under review.

Monthly Survey Results

- 47 Paper/QR Code Surveys
- 25 Statewide Surveys
- **72 Total Surveys**
- Overall Satisfaction Average (Scale 1-4): **3.7**

January Staff/Partner Trainings

- 1/7- Iowa Department for the Blind
- 1/14- Center-Specific Trainings
- 1/21- Title I
- 1/28- Center Specific Trainings

Core and Required Partner Meeting

- 1/13

Business Engagement Consultant (BEC)/Title I Collaboration Meeting

- 1/6

OSO Center Presence

- 1/6 Denison
- 1/6 Council Bluffs
- 1/21 Council Bluffs
- 1/27 Fort Dodge

Iowa Plains Referrals

- 111 Referrals on Iowa Plains Referral Form-January 2026
 - 2- American Indian Council
 - 11- HSED/ESL
 - 7- Title III
 - 12- IVRS
 - 1- SCEP
 - 3- SNAP E&T
 - 56- Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker
 - 7- Title I Youth