

Thursday, March 12, 2015

IOWA STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
BOARD MEETING CONFERENCE CALL
FEBRUARY 27, 2015
DRAFT MINUTES

The Iowa Workforce Development Board met Friday, February 27, 2015, originating in the Boardroom of the Iowa Area Community College Trustees (IACCT), 855 E Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. Board Chair Andy Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Voting Board members in attendance included: Chair Andy Roberts, Susan Kmet, John Krogman, Stacey Andersen, Ken Sagar, Norene Mostkoff, and Dee Vanderhoef on the telephone.

Non-Voting Board members attending: Greg Lewis, Steve Ovel, Greer Sisson, Senator Bill Dotzler and Jake Chapman, Jeremy Varner, Rita Grim for Debi Durham, David Mitchell, and Kirsten Running-Marquardt on the telephone.

Board members absent were: Caroline Hicks, Robert Gilmore, Drew Conrad, Gary Steinke, Senator Chapman, and Representative Mary Ann Hanusa.

IWD Administrative staff in attendance included: Director Beth Townsend, Deputy Director Ed Wallace, Joe Bervid, Lori Adams, Mike Wilkinson, Paul Mikkelsen, Kelly Taylor, Gary Bateman, Kerry Koonce, Todd Spencer, Ted Harms, Marlys Jones, Nick Olivencia, and Lisa Castillo.

Guests in attendance: Heather Hackbarth – Dept. of Management; Angie Arthur, Region 11 Central Iowa Workforce; and Susie Paulson, IA Department on Aging. Doug Hoelscher and Ben Hammes participated via telephone on behalf of the Governor's office.

Roll call was taken and quorum was established for this meeting. Welcome to board member Stacey Andersen, attending her first meeting.

The meeting agenda was provided for review prior to the meeting.

Motion: K. Sagar moved to approve the agenda for the meeting. J. Krogman second. Motion Passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November 13, 2014, State Workforce Board meeting and the September 29, 2014 Board conference call were previously provided for review in the board packets.

Motion: D. Vanderhoef to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2014, State Workforce Board meetings. K. Sagar second. Motion Passed.

Director's Report – Beth Townsend

Over the last six weeks the Director has been meeting with all Des Moines area IWD staff, shareholders and partners, gathering input to see where IWD is as an agency, where we need to go, and what opportunities are available. A Budget Appropriation sub-committee meeting was attended to provide IWD budget information (PowerPoint provided). In the next six weeks Director Townsend is scheduled to visit all 15 One-Stops and all of the Community College presidents and their staff.

The board provided feedback about information they would like to see included in future reports, which included: field office feedback; reaction from regional boards regarding Human Capitol Enrichment; alignment between strategy and outcomes to support the Customer Service Plan.

Saturday customer service operations were reviewed to gain board input regarding continued Saturday services. The concern is longer wait times and high call abandonment. At a cost of \$5,000 annually for OT, it was determined the best course of action may be to institute a back-up schedule for on-call staff and to refresh efforts to advise Iowan's about available hours.

WIOA – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act – Lori Adams

There are numerous partners engaged in the WIOA planning, including departments of Voc Rehab, Aging, Blind, Education, Human Rights, and Human Services. There is significant pre-planning underway as delivery of the regulations is awaited. A newsletter is planned to keep the regions informed. Staff are scheduled to attend upcoming RWIB meetings. A board member suggested that state board members should also attend the RWIB meetings; a schedule of meetings will be provided. The board recommended holding a conference for regional boards to provide training and updates concerning WIOA and board responsibilities.

The results of a recent RWIB survey of WIOA understanding were provided. There was an excellent 70% response rate. At this time, Iowa appears to be ahead of many other states in terms of what has been accomplished toward WIOA implementation. Information links will be provided to the board.

Skilled Iowa Update

There are currently 12,610 member businesses. A total of 505 internships have been initiated with 390 of them completed. A total of 225 (58%) have received offers of full time employment resulting from the internship. Iowa continues to use indexing to grow the job bank. IWD's cooperation with the Department of Corrections continues to grow with the opening of the Fresh Start Center and Women's Center for Change in Waterloo. Job fairs continue to attract a large group of employers and job seekers.

The board requested explanation and detail regarding the average rate of pay for jobs in the job bank. Lori will prepare information for distribution to the board.

Legislative Update – Joe Bervid, Ed Wallace

House Study Bill 136 calls for the revision of Ch 84 and incorporates a Human Capitol Enrichment board designed to empower Iowans with skills to meet future employment needs; align education, workforce and economic development; and provide broader flexibility in shaping the state workforce board.

Handouts were provided. This study bill has also been provided to the USDOL for review as it aligns with the WIOA implementation process.

Home Base Iowa Update – Linda Rouse

There has been a substantial change in the way that our local vet reps provide service in that they are now only allowed to assist veterans with significant barriers to employment. IWD presently has 15 vet reps in 13 of the one-stop offices. The remaining veterans will receive services as would any other Iowan. Linda regularly communicates with veterans about coming to Iowa – where they would like to live, the type of work they seek, and the salary range needed. There will be a push for vet reps to talk to employers about jobs for veterans.

Budget Report – Paul Mikkelsen

There are no issues projected in the budget process for the remainder of FY15; revenue and expenses are expected to finish within budget. While 51% of the pay periods have been completed, there may be expenses exceeding that percentage point as expenditures are not generally incurred in a regular pattern.

The Supplemental Budget Request information was provided as previously requested. This funding results when additional funds become available from USDOL. The majority of these funds is used for enhancing and modernizing the UI systems and must be applied for. One such program identified as SPUG 11 – Participant Profile Enhancement – has the intent to identify proof/verification and electronic recording of claimant work searches, and additional electronic documentation upload and storage of UI claim processing. There will be a demonstration set up within the next 30 days for the legislature and board members to review.

IBM and John Deere Layoff Update – Ted Harms

IBM issued a WARN notice on January 28, 2015, indicating 202 Dubuque employees would be incrementally released from employment beginning February 27 through the end of June. Rapid Response meetings have been conducted to assist individuals in the transition. IBM offers a \$2,500 training allowance in a severance package it offered to the affected employees.

John Deere will release a total of 1,424 individuals from the Waterloo and Ankeny facilities. Worker information meetings have been scheduled. An application for a National Emergency Grant (NEG) in the amount of \$4.1M will be made to USDOL. Tuition reimbursement is available to these workers. In an unprecedented move, IWD has offered to conduct case management and career counseling and John Deere has agreed. Unions and community colleges will be involved as well. Looking to the future, John Deere only looks to recall 280 employees over the next three years.

Apprenticeship – Greer Sisson

Iowa is #1 in Registered Apprenticeships; South Carolina is #2. Iowa had 121 new apprenticeship programs initiated in the last year. There are now 3,602 new apprenticeships registered. Iowa is one of seven states invited to participate in the German Initiative and we are the first to have a penitentiary apprenticeship program which is moving toward a statewide Department of Corrections program.

Other Business

There was no additional business for discussion.

Adjournment

Motion: K. Sagar moved to adjourn this meeting of the State Workforce Development Board. J. Krogman second. Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:36 pm.

Respectfully,

Lisa Castillo, Recorder

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