

Region 14 Regional Workforce Development Board Meeting
IowaWORKS Center, 215 N Elm, Creston
Official Minutes, July 18, 2016

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Jane Briley at 6:30 P.M.

Roll Call – Regional Workforce Development Board members present: Jane Briley, Ronda Wishon, Rod Shields, Eula Dolecheck, Steve Gilbert, Don Keast, Jolene Griffith by phone, Fred Staats by phone. Absent were Dorene Rusk (excused), Guy Brace, Brian Helm, Dave Neas, Judy Hodge, Paula White. **RWDB Quorum – Yes.**

County Elected Officials present: Dave Homan (Adair Co.), Merlin Dixon (Adams Co.), Bill Black (Clarke Co.), Dennis Brown (Union Co.), Paul Dykstra (Ringgold Co.), Steven Ratcliff (Montgomery Co.). Absent were Charles Ambrose (Taylor Co.) and J.R. Cornett (Decatur Co.). **CEO Quorum – Yes.**

Partners present: Ron Ludwig, MATURA; Sharman Lowenberg, Voc Rehab; Darla Helm, SWCC ABE; Elizabeth Waigand, IWD. Excused was Billie Jo Greenwalt, SIRHA. Ex-Officio present: Wayne Pantini, Union County Economic Development.
WIOA/MATURA staff present: Barb DeVore, Michelle Wilson, Sue McElwain.

Agenda –Ronda made a motion to accept the agenda as sent. Rod seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes – Eula made a motion to approve the minutes of the 5/16/16 meeting. Dave Homan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

WIOA Transition – Board Reconstruction – We need to move the Board to the new structure which is going to be required by DOL. At least four regions have already completed this. New board structure is outlined in the packet. The biggest changes for us are moving Wayne, Elizabeth and Sharman from ex-officios to voting members, and bringing Darla Helm on as a voting member. Other members representing business will be added to ensure over 50% of RWDB members represent businesses. Applicants are coming in now to fill those position. **Don made a motion to approve moving the Board to the new WIOA Board design. Eula seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Progress – We have 3 things not done yet: 1) completing the creation of sector boards, 2) career pathways (on-going), and 3) technology – a common intake system for IWD, WIOA, Voc Rehab, ABE. The State is sending out an RFP for a new intake system. We are required to spend 75% of our youth dollars on out-of-school youth. We ended at 64% this first year. Also, 20% work based learning (OJT, WEP, etc.) is required. We ended this year at 14%, which we feel is good for the 1st year.

Local Plan Update – A sheet in the packet shows our region’s needs, end goal, activities we will utilize to reach our goal, tools we are currently using, etc. This information has gone into our 84 page regional plan, which was recently conditionally certified.

Referral Process sheet is in the packet. This is a structured, formal way to share customers and helps us keep track of people. Outcome from Combined Services is on the back, which shows how partners can work together for employment outcomes of our common customers. Iowa Dept for the Blind will join this process tomorrow.

Budget – We will meet our goal of spending last year’s money down to the carry-over. We use the carry-over to cover the expenses of the 1st quarter of the new year beginning 7/1/16.

SPNEG Regional Distribution – This money originally came from the bird flu epidemic to help affected workers get back to work. By the time the money was available here, the crisis had passed. Therefore, they decided to give the money to all Iowa regions to use as work based learning to help Dislocated Workers get employed. We received \$182,000, and it is a 2 year grant. It is similar to the Apprenticeship grant. This is in addition to our regular DW allocation. With only 3.5% unemployment, it will be a challenge.

Performance Update – Packet includes 3rd quarter performance for Adult, DW, Youth. Under youth we have a couple red numbers, but we worked on these last quarter and the State hasn’t changed them yet. Actually, all our numbers should all be in the black now.

Demographic report is in the packet. This info is from intake at the front door. MSFW is migrant/seasonal farm worker. We have hired a new worker for MSFW covering the western area. His name is Domingo Pedro and he will work with MSFW to help them find more stable employment.

Report Card on RCSP Goals – Michelle Wilson – In the packet is a blue and white sheet that tracks our outreach efforts. Have touched 1398 people since 5/2/16, including a lot of businesses, schools, etc. Monthly reports for May and June are included in the packet. These

showcase the high points. A highlight in June was the Wal-Mart Foundation Grant which sponsored a heavy equipment construction simulator. 163 people participated. This was for all ages, including Promise Jobs participants to show them a potentially different career path. We hope to do it again next year. Tomorrow will be an ECI training on Apprenticeships. Everyone is invited. See Michelle if interested.

State Report – Elizabeth Waigand – New this year was the Veteran Rock Tour to take veterans and their families around to tour the memorial rocks painted by Bubba Sorensen. His goal is to have 1 in each Iowa county, and eventually 1 in each state. This year they toured Union, Adams, and Adair Counties by bus. The bus and driver were donated by the First Baptist Church. 17 people attended, which was good for the first year. They hope to do it again next year and visit different counties.

Darla Helm – SWCC ABE – They are hiring counselors to work with their students. They will offer support services, referrals, etc. The first counselors will be in Creston and Red Oak. They have hired Jan Lesan to work part-time to help reduce barriers, assist with goal setting, etc.

Elizabeth Waigand – UI rates have been dropping. They expect an increase. Barb said our region has 500 open positions now. There's also an uptake in Trade eligible, meaning operations have moved off shore. Bill Black said Bill Trickey, Clarke County Economic Development, told them they have more openings than people available.

Monitoring Results – The Apprenticeship Grant was monitored and there were no findings.

Just received the Letter of Intent, meaning we will get the Adult, DW, Youth grants for the region.

Local Elected Officials met a couple weeks ago and submitted these names to the Governor: Darla Helm to join the Board as a voting member, and Elizabeth, Wayne, and Sharman to move from ex-officio members to voting members. We are still recruiting businesses to be on the Board. By Sept, our open positions may be filled. Board resignations include Guy Brace, Dave Neas, Brian Helm, and Paula White.

Wayne asked about Home Based Iowa referrals? Adams County just became a HBI county. Elizabeth said we were getting 2-3 referrals a month, then had a staff change. Trying to get it going again. Hope to see more referrals soon. Steve asked what HBI does? Elizabeth said there is an incentive package for veterans, to try to get them to come to Iowa for employment. There are 500,000 transitioning veterans. An advantage for businesses is a more skilled workforce.

Wayne said Union County's incentive package includes \$2500 which can be used towards a home, utility deposits, appliances, YMCA membership, etc. SICOG offers a down payment assistance program. It helps recruit veterans to our area to help meet our employers' needs. Barb said as we move to our new Board structure, we will need ex-officios. Ex-officios can be County Elected Officials. Dave Homan has volunteered to serve as both.

Steve asked about a succession plan for boomers? Wayne said SBDC has a business succession plan, as well as some of the colleges such as ISU, UNI, etc.

Requests for Agenda Items for Next Meeting – No requests at this time. Jane announced the next meeting will be held on 9/19/16 at 6:30 P.M.

Barb announced a regional conference will be held on 10/18/16. The goal of this conference is to move the needle on the K-12 system and business system working together so young lowans know the opportunities that exist locally as they make their career decisions.

Rod made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.