

Region 14 Regional Workforce Development Board Meeting
IowaWORKS Center, 215 N Elm, Creston
Official Minutes, March 20, 2017

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jolene Griffith at 6:30 P.M.

Roll Call – Regional Workforce Development Board members present: Jolene Griffith, Jane Briley, Ronda Wishon, Eula Dolecheck, Steve Gilbert, Katrina Fleharty, Karin Freml, Dorene Rusk, Darla Helm, Ann Schlapia, Elizabeth Waigand, Don Keast, Wayne Pantini. Ex-Officio member present: Rod Shields. Absent were Judy Hodge (excused), and Fred Staats. **RWDB Quorum – Yes.**

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

Partners present: Ron Ludwig, MATURA; Mandi Claussen, Proteus. Billie Jo Greenwalt, SIRHA, was excused.

Guests present: Rosie Thierer, Iowa Department on Aging; and Domingo Pedro, Iowa Workforce Development MSFW.

WIOA/MATURA staff present: Larry Johnson, Sue McElwain.

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

Minutes – Eula made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/21/16 meeting. Don seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Website for Electronic Minutes – www.iowawdb.gov – Eventually everything in the packets will be available on-line.

Iowa Department on Aging – Rosie Thierer – Rosie gave a presentation to the Board. The Iowa Department on Aging is under the Older Americans Act and is funded by the Department of Labor. They are a required partner of WIOA. Eligibility requirements are 55 years of age or older, 125% of poverty, and not employed. Host agencies are 501(c)3 (nonprofits). MATURA is a host agency. The participants work 18-20 hours a week and receive minimum wage. They

can only stay 48 months maximum at a worksite. They are considered in training, so they also continue to look for employment. The program is designed to up-skill the individual so they can obtain unsubsidized employment. National Able Network has replaced Experience Works.

WIOA – Progress on Transition to WIOA, Goals for 2017 – We are working on sector boards, career pathways, and technology. The State is working on a new data management system, which is probably about 18 months out.

Budget Update – We are in good shape. 50% of the year has elapsed and we have expended and obligated 59.44%.

Performance to Goals Update – Referral Process Outcomes – The Outcomes sheet in the packet shows actual participants and each partner’s roles in working with them.

Disability Access Committee – Dorene Rusk – A Disability Access Committee is required by the State. A guidance sheet on forming this 7 person committee is in the packet. **Dorene will be the Chairperson. Other committee members will be Ron, Darla, Elizabeth, Katrina (business), Steve, Sam Negron (Department of the Blind). Wayne made a motion to approve the Disability Access Committee members mentioned above. Eula seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

MATURA’s response to a letter received from Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services is in the packet. The letter addresses issues related to accessibility of our building for our WIOA program with IWD. All accessibility concerns have been addressed.

State Reports – Elizabeth combined her State and Partner Report.

Partner Report – MSFW/Latino Outreach – Elizabeth Waigand – Domingo Pedro (IWD) and Mandi Claussen (PROTEUS) gave an overview of the migrant/seasonal farmworker program. Domingo covers the whole western district. The MSFW program has 3 sets of workers: H2A, migrant workers, seasonal farmworkers. H2A – businesses are not able to find U.S. workers, so they bring people here temporarily from overseas. The employer will provide housing, transportation to and from work, etc. The benefit to employers is that their positions are filled.

Migrant workers – They move around a lot. They have to be away from home at least 24 hours. Seasonal – They work through the summer and are off in the winter, for example. Domingo reaches out to these populations and tries to help them find jobs here. He also works with service organizations. Mandi with PROTEUS also comes into this and can help with training costs. We are also working on a Spanish speaking job fair.

Mandi Claussen, PROTEUS – Proteus is an Iowa based non-profit organization which works with migrant and seasonal farm workers. It is funded primarily by grant money and is a mandatory part of IWD. She is a case manager and works with farm workers. Some services they can provide are financial assistance to help them gain unsubsidized employment (they target 2 year degrees) and OJTs lasting 4-12 weeks where they can reimburse the employer half the wages. Another program is the migrant health program which can help with primary health care services. They also have mobile health clinics.

Domingo mentioned they are collecting long sleeve shirts (can be gently used) to help protect farmworkers from the sun. Collection boxes are at IWD, SWCC, and PROTEUS.

Sector Boards – Wayne said originally it appeared there were enough clustered businesses to warrant sector boards. However, in rural areas there isn't enough of any 1 business. Wayne is on one of SWCC's advisory boards. They review and approve classes. Businesses are involved to make sure the college and high school classes are still relevant. Elizabeth said many of the same businesses will be involved on both boards. It's hard to get businesses together, so we want to try to make it more convenient for them. Elizabeth attended an advisory board meeting last week and found the businesses are very involved. We would like to use SWCC's advisory boards as a model for our sector board.

Elizabeth went through the Integration Statistics sheets in the packet. She said people with disabilities coming in our office are at 10%. This is self-disclosure. Dorene's office is located in our office. She handed out the UI rates, which compares January 2017 with January 2016. Most of the rates are lower in 2017. She said the focus now is to up-skill people.

AEL Review Committee (Form 7) – Darla Helm – Under Title II, the Iowa AEFLA grant application requires local boards to review all AEFLA applications submitted to the IDOE from eligible providers within the local area to determine whether the applications are consistent with their local plans. Upon completing this review, the local board must submit a recommendation to the Iowa Dept of Education that promotes alignment with the local plan. An AEL subcommittee needs to be formed to review and approve Darla's grant. The RWDB needs to approve the subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee will also need to sign a Conflict of Interest Form. Elizabeth will be the contact person and can choose her committee. Other possible subcommittee members include Billie Jo Greenwalt, Julie Lang (Head Start Director), and Larry Johnson. **Don made a motion to approve the AEL Review Committee members of Elizabeth, Billie Jo, Julie Lang, and Larry. Wayne seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Upcoming items to discuss include sector partner meetings development, local plan modifications to reflect our new board and other changes as needed, election of chair/vice chair positions.

Requests for Agenda Items for Next Meeting 5/15/17? None at this time.

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