

REGION 7
Regional Workforce Development Board
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 11, 2017 – 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Cedar Valley IowaWORKS
3420 University Avenue
Conference Room D
Waterloo, Iowa

Present

- Dustin Brocka
- Deborah Collett
- Kelly Flege
- Debra Hodges-Harmon
- Mike Howell
- Sandra Jensen
- Ken Kammeyer
- Butch Kelly
- Reid Koenig
- Linda Laylin
- Lisa Lorenzen
- Stefanie Niemann
- Clayton Ohrt
- Ronee Slagle
- Andy Trower
- Aaron Wedo

1.0 Welcome

-Deborah Collett commenced the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

2.0 Review and Action:

2.1 March 30, 2017 RWDB Minutes and May 11, 2017 Agenda

-Review May 11, 2017 Agenda:

- Strike 3.0 as Clayton is already taking care of this. This is either in the mail or on Chris' desk as we speak.

-Item 5.3 needs to go into closed session ahead of recommendation.

-Approval of RWDB March Minutes:

-Ken Kammeyer moved to approve the minutes and Linda Laylin seconded. All Approved. None Opposed. Motion Approved.

3.0 Clayton Ohrt

3.1 Ex-Officio County: Oath of Office

4.0 Director's Announcements

4.1 RWDB Positions

4.1.1 RWDB Business Rep. and Ex-Officio School Board Nominations

-Dustin Brocka addressed the Appointment Resumes received for Richard McBurney and Crystal Buzza for Regional Workforce Investment Board nominations.

4.2 SP-NEG Funding Update

-It has been decided not to pursue an extension of the SP-NEG. This means all grant activity must be completed by June 30, 2017.

4.3 Center Report

-Dustin Brocka addressed Title I (Adult and Dislocated Workers):

- 4.3 page 1 shows a list of retail closings and the number of individuals affected from each closed business. We are keeping track of closings and confirmed affected to see if we can get a grant from the state to support dislocated workers. These businesses are all around Region 7 (mostly Black Hawk County, also some in Buchanan and Grundy Counties)

-Central Iowa Healthcare consists of the Hospital and Clinics around the Marshalltown area. Some of these clinics are in our counties. Some of the affected reside in our counties. The new owner is making people re-apply, so there is no guarantee of re-employment.

-HGS was the call center Affina. They closed down operations.

-Why are there so few confirmed affected employees for Pizza Hut? Explanation is this was a carry-out location, so they may have only had a few employees.

-Why is there not data for certain businesses like Townhouse Tenderloin? Explanation is they simply closed down by putting a sign on the door. There were two locations. One off University Avenue and one off Viking Road. These businesses may not have been associated with each other.

-Covenant closed a specific department in the hospital resulting in 7 employees affected. These individuals are believed to have been coding employees.

-Ridgeway Place was a retirement/senior assisted living center. Believe this center was bought out by another facility that does not specialize in this type of care.

-Ocwen State Emergency Grant ended in March. Page 2 of the Center Report shows numbers of the dislocated workers we served. We served 126 individuals with the grant.

-Terex State Emergency Grant ends in December.

-All Regions appear to be having retail/service closings.

-Black Hawk County unemployment rate is currently 4.1%.

-Is there somewhere we can go to see what new businesses are coming to the Region? Tax auditors in the center should be able to track when new businesses are opening by looking at who is applying for tax ID's.

-We are still doing research trying to verify closures, major layoffs, and the number of affected employees.

-We are still focusing on Disability Employment Initiative and Ticket to Work. Region 7 is close to the top of the state in both programs.

-Title II (Adult Education and Literacy) will be addressed by Sandy Jensen under 6.1

-Andy Trower addressed Title III:

-Business Services Representative, Jennifer Gray, is in schools once a week to assist Counselors in helping youth with resumes, job preparation, soft skills, etc.

-The Business Services Team is collaborating with Mayor Hart through the Waterloo Youth Employment Initiative. Believe there will be 25 youth involved who are based out of East High School. Believe there is a Facebook and Internet page that provides more information.

-On April 20th, Maximizing Talent, Minimizing Risk took place. This focused on re-entering citizens. There was a simulation activity in the morning. There was a discussion in the afternoon regarding barriers to getting hired with background issues.

-Douglas Marshall is traveling to Indiana next week for Offender Workforce Development Specialist Training. Working on how to better serve the re-entering citizen population.

-Mike Howell addressed Title IV:

-Project Search consisted of 11 students with most significant disabilities. One participant was hired on at UNI and starts work on Monday. UNI attended the reverse job fair and has since hired the student.

-ABLE Accounts allow individuals on SSI/SSDI to build up savings. They can save up to \$14,000/year. The program varies state by state. Believe you can save upwards of \$250-550K.

4.4 Minority Hiring Update

4.4.1 May 9, 2017 – Payne Church 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

-Debra Hodges-Harmon stated the listening tour had business and minority presence.

-Mayor Hart and Workforce employee from Des Moines helped facilitate.

-Participants felt the barriers were the same for minorities regardless of education level.

-What are the barriers to employment? Lack of opportunities for entrepreneurship, lack of education in hiring panels, etc.

-Ronee Slagle got the impression there is disconnect between businesses and minority job seekers when it comes to communication. There was not a round representative of the minority population. There seemed to be mostly older and highly educated minorities present.

-Butch Kelly stated location of the business can be a barrier as well. Some people are not willing to travel for work. Also mentioned that shift work seems to be a barrier. Individuals are concerned how working certain shifts will impact family and childcare.

4.4.2 May 30, 2017 – Waterloo Center for the Arts 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

-This is when the 2nd listening tour is planned. Information has been disseminated via flyers, emails, local newspapers, local radio stations, etc.

5.0 Review and Act Items:

5.1 Approve RWDB appointment for Butler County

-Linda Laylin moved to approve the RWDB appointment for Butler County and Mike Howell seconded. All Approved. None Opposed. Motion Approved.

5.2 Approve RWDB Ex-Officio appointment for School Board

-Linda Laylin moved to approve the RWDB Ex-Officio appointment for School Board and Butch Kelly seconded. All Approved. None Opposed. Motion Approved.

5.3 RWDB E.C. Recommendation for AEL Bidder

-Ken Kammeyer moved to approve closed session and Reid Koenig seconded. All Approved. None Opposed. Motion Approved.

-on May 9th, Mike Howell, Andy Trower, Reid Koenig, Debra Hodges-Harmon, and Deborah Collett met to review the application.

-Recommending we accept Hawkeye be awarded the grant. There was only one bidder.

-Reid Koneig moved to end closed session and Stefani Niemann seconded. All Approved. None Opposed. Motion Approved.

6.0 Partner Updates

6.1 Adult Education & Literacy – Sandy Jensen

-Hawkeye has the CNC I-BEST and the CNA I-BEST programs.

-High School Completion classes are concluding in May. New students can enroll starting in August.

-Starting August 28th, will be moving to a semester schedule (there will be a fall and spring semester)

-There is a graduation ceremony once a year for High School Completion program. This year's ceremony will be held June 29th. The ceremony is at Tama Hall on Hawkeye Community College's campus.

-ELL classes complete in May. ELL's completion ceremony will be held May 17th at the Waterloo Center for the Arts.

-AEL receives state funding. They are receiving level funding this year which was a huge relief. There is a 50% proposed cut for next year.

-The Senior Companion Program is federally funded. They have funding through this calendar year. There may be funding cuts in 2018.

-New building construction is underway. Anticipated move in is August 2018.

6.2 Vocational Rehabilitation – Mike Howell

6.3 Department for the Blind – Joe Weigel

6.4 Economic Development – Danny Laudick

7.0 Information Items

7.1 HSED Graduation June 29, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Hawkeye Community College Tama Hall

8.0 Scheduling Upcoming Meeting Date

8.1 RWDB Full Meeting:

8.1.1 July 27, 2017

8.1.2 September 28, 2017

8.1.3 November 16, 2017