

Regional Workforce Development Board
Chief Elected Officials
November 27th, 2017

The regular meeting of the Region 16 Workforce Development Board (RWDB) and Chief Elected Officials (CEO) was held on November 27th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at IowaWORKS.

CALL TO ORDER

Hickey called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

ATTENDEES

RWDB Members Present: Mike Hickey, Dennis Duke, Cara Sanders, Jacob Nye, Kristina Martinez, Carolyn Farley, Dick Beard, Chad Palmer, and

RWDB Members Absent: Ryan Drew, Monica Dyar, Andrew Ferguson, Janet Fife-LaFrenz, Karen Taylor, Phil Hecht, Michelle Mutchler, and Rachel Miller

CEO Present: Brad Quigley, Gary See, Rick Larkin

CEO Absent: Jim Cary

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Jesse Howard

Staff Present: Robert Ryan (WIOA), Mike Witt (IWD), and Cynthia Whalen (IVRS)

Guests: Karen Von Behren, Joyce Stimpson (RWDB applicant from Case-New Holland), Wood Stortzum (RWDB applicant from US Bank), and Abigail Wells (Proteus, Inc.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Beard made the motion to approve the October 2017 minutes, seconded by Nye, motion carried.

BOARD VACANCIES UPDATE

Ryan stated that several applications have been submitted to the State for approval. But that the changes required by the DOL may affect this.

STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD UPDATE/DOL REVIEW

Sanders shared that Beth Townsend presented to the State board that DOL had conducted an audit and there were several findings. The major finding is that the State has not been aligned properly for the new WIOA legislation. State leadership met with DOL last week to discuss what is needed. Title 1 Directors have invited the Deputy Director of DOL to meet with them December 6th and 7th. The first meeting to start the realignment process will be in December. The state is looking to have most of the changes completed by next Fiscal year. Other findings were that some districts did not have current CEO agreements and that the funding has been going straight to the Fiscal agents instead of to the CEO's and Board first. Martinez shared that this realignment will affect the AEL program through what programs will be available to the participants.

PROTEUS, INC

Abigail Wells explained that Proteus is a grant funded program that helps farm workers find full time employment, gain soft skills, and education. The program is available to participants that 51% of their income came from farm work in the last 2 years.

TITLE 1 WIOA UPDATE

Ryan reviewed that the only program that is over the monthly budget is Dislocated Worker. He reminded the board that we can move any extra Adult funds to this program towards the end of the fiscal year. He also stated that he has a plan to move more workers to the Youth program that has more funding.

TITLE II AEL UPDATE

Martinez reported that the AEL program is 4 months into the Fiscal year and have 28 students testing and 19 students half way through the program. Last year their goal was to have 678 students achieve their HiSED but only 573 did. This year's goal is to have 652 and at this time they already have 420 completed. So they are on pace to surpass their goal. Of the 420 students completed, 102 plan to continue on to college.

IET will be starting soon. The first one will be in CNA were students will achieve their HiSED and obtain their CNA license by the end of the program. They are guaranteed employment at the end of the program. The next IET will be in truck driving which is set to beginning in Mid-February. They hope to have a Manufacturing program started by the end of this fiscal year. These programs are at no cost to the students. They have to complete testing with the PACE program and then complete an application to be enrolled. The goal is to have 25 students complete IET by the end of the fiscal year.

TITLE III IWD UPDATE

Farley reported that Iowa unemployment rates have gone down. Lee County went from 6.3% from September to 4.1% in October. Louisa and Henry are at 2.6% and the State is at the best rate ever at 3%. lowajobs.org has 1,109 open positions currently posted.

Farley shared that there was recently a Job Fair at the Mt Pleasant Corrections facilities on-site. There were 80 Offenders that will soon be returning to the workforce that attended, with 8 different employers.

TITLE IV VR/IDB UPDATE

Whalen shared that IVRS and the Accessibility Committee, a Subcommittee of the Regional RWDB. Will be having a customer focus group 12/7/17 from 1pm to 3pm. They will be getting feedback on the WIOA partner programs and the services provided.

On Wednesday November 29th there will be a Regional Transition Resource Fair at Burlington Community High School. There will be multiple agencies there to help high school student's transition from high school.

OTHER BUSINESS

Martinez shared that the AEL program will be moving out of the IowaWORKS center due to out- growing the space, to Building 500 at SCC. Also, be on the lookout for an email about Mt Pleasant Christmas on the Square from her. SCC will be open for this event with cookie decorating, the telling of How the Grinch stole Christmas, airing of How the Grinch stole Christmas moving, and Bingo.

Farley shared that Mt Pleasant correctional facilities will soon have a workforce advisor on-site to have the transitioning offender find employment upon release. They have completed the interview process and hope to have the new staff member start by Mid-December.

ADJOURNMENT

Beaird made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Quigley, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.