**Region 14 Regional Workforce Development Board Meeting**

**IowaWORKS Center, 215 N Elm, Creston**

**Official Minutes, January 15, 2018**

**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, Katrina Fleharty, Karin Freml, Darla Helm, Ann Schlapia, Don Keast, Wayne Pantini, Jason Cook, Eula Dolecheck, Steve Gilbert, Jane Briley. Ex-Officio member present: Dave Homan. Absent were Dorene Rusk (excused), Elizabeth Waigand (excused), Lana McMann. Ex-Officio members absent were Paul Griffen, Tom Kedley, Rod Shields. **RWDB Quorum – Yes**.

County Elected Officials present: Dennis Brown (Union Co.), Merlin Dixon (Adams Co.), Charles Ambrose (Taylor Co.), Dan Christensen (Decatur Co.), Dave Homan (Adair Co.), Bill Black (Clarke Co.), Kraig Pennington (Ringgold Co.). Absent was Steven Ratcliff (Montgomery Co.). **CEO Quorum – Yes**.

Partners present: Ron Ludwig, MATURA. Billie Jo Greenwalt, SIRHA, was excused.

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

**Minutes – Charles made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/20/17 meeting. Dan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda – Eula made a motion to approve the agenda as sent. Dan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Realignment Committee – Steve Gilbert –** There are now 15 RWDB boards that match the community college regions. DOL is saying Iowa does not have sufficient funds for these Boards to be run the way WIOA legislation stipulates. Need to have adequate fiscal and procedural oversight. The Realignment Committee is asking for a lot more data before they make a decision. They want to know the funds needed for 1 board to perform the functions required by the Department of Labor, as well as job descriptions, current salaries, etc., and work backwards from that. Steve has been asked to Chair this Realignment Committee and Ron has been attending the meetings too. Jolene asked about salaries? This is a volunteer board. Steve said Region 11 (Des Moines) has 1 paid position. They want to look at other state models too. Ron suggested keeping the boards the way they are, out sourcing the fiscal/procedural audits, and sharing these costs among the regions. Steve feels this idea has merit. He would also like to see every region represented on the State Board. There has been discussion of consolidating the RWDB boards anywhere from 2 to 8 boards. If we outsource and share the cost, we can be in compliance. The next Realignment Committee meeting is 2/9. The next State Workforce Board meeting is in April. Ron feels this consolidation will diminish what we are currently doing here and will have a negative effect on us. It is Steve’s understanding this will not shut down any one-stop shops or eliminate staff. Ron said it may start out that way. In Charles’s experience, when services are regionalized, then people tend to move to metro areas. Jolene asked if sector boards were mentioned at this meeting? Steve said no. Jolene said DOL wants independent, objective leaders to lead the RWDB meetings. Title I Directors are mostly leading the meetings. That is not an issue here. Jane asked if we can explain to DOL that is not an issue here. We have checks and balances in place. Steve said that would be a question for Ben Humphrey.

One concern Steve has is what happens to industries when we have a disconnected board and no engagement? Will industries leave the area? DOL would like 2 paid staff people to meet the needs of the Board and fiscal/procedural oversight, and independently lead the meetings. Ron suggested contacting Senators Grassley and Ernst’s offices and inform them of the negative impact this would have on rural Iowa. Jolene does not want this to slip past. DOE could be next. Promise Jobs is now down to 5 regions. Agency on Aging is down to 4-5 regions. Charles cautioned not to move too fast on this. Darla said the community college matches funds for their Title program at 25-50%, plus charges no Admin fees. The board support person for Region 11 is partially funded by DMACC. Community colleges provide more support than many people think.

**Partner Report Updates – Title I Report & Wagner Peyser – Larry –** We are halfway through the year and have expended/obligated nearly half our budget, so we are on task. Will carryover 20% going into next year. We had 343 new members in December, which is 150 more than last year. This is due to the Ferrara and CHS plant closings. Approximately 40 people from Ferrara are enrolled in training through Trade. K-mart in Red Oak is closing.

Staff will be going to Red Oak on 1/30 for a worker information meeting. Staff will be going to Clarke on 2/6 to work with 100 students. On 2/13 they will go to the Clarinda Correctional Facility with businesses to work with 50 inmates, showing them the opportunities they have to become employed.

**Adult Education Literacy –Darla –** The integrated training program includes AEL, IWD, and Voc Rehab. In the mornings will be workshops and training. In the afternoons will be paid OJT’s. These could lead to employment or additional training. Participants will also have the opportunity to talk to employers, go on plant tours, etc. They hope to have 10-12 students. Nine are signed up so far. Participants may experience different jobs and receive skill training. Larry has 3-4 employers lined up including Precision Optical, Hy-Vee, the health care field, and City of Creston. It’s called Smart Start Pathways. It is career exploration with training. Jolene asked about transportation and child care? Darla said these are built into the grant. Kickoff is 1/29 and runs through 3/9.

**Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation - Consumer Focus Group – Larry –** Dorene is not here tonight, so Larry discussed the Consumer Focus Group and the assessment of our facilities here that was completed.

**Economic Development – Wayne –** Held a career fair on 12/2/17 at SWCC with 24 employers. Approximately 88 people attended. They will hold another career fair this Thursday, 1/18/18, from 4-7:00 at the former State Savings Bank. 38 employers will be there, as well as 8-10 service providers, SWCC and BV representatives, and a SBDC representative. This is open to the public. They are partnering with the YMCA to provide free child care. Six employers have requested interview rooms.

Economic Development always has projects they are submitting for, such as businesses wanting to expand, wanting to locate here, etc. They are engaging with a couple of businesses right now and have a site visit scheduled for late February.

**Requests For Agenda Items For Next Meeting on 3/19/18 –** Updates from Steve’s Realignment Committee and Darla’s integrated training program.

**Adjournment** – Don made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.