



Iowa Region 3 & 4 CEO - RWDB

***RWDB Chair: Janet Dykstra
CEO Chair: Dale Arends***

Region 3 & 4 Chief Elected Official Board and
Regional Workforce Development Board Combined Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2018
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Governmental Services Center, 217 West 5th Street, Spencer
Room B

RWDB Members Present: Jason Anderson, Reva Arends, Lee Beem, Mike Carlson, Janet Dykstra, Susan Golwitzer, Linda Gray, Kristin Hanson, Rhonda Jager-Pippy, Tim Kinnetz, Lori Kolbeck, Diane Nelsen, Vernon Nelson, Scott Rettey, Mike Schulte, Ranae Sipma, Carrie Turnquist, Kenneth Vande Brake, Benjamin VanDonge, Gregory Ver Steeg, Lisa Washington

RWDB Members Excused Absence: Kiley Miller, Dave Swanson

CEO Members Present: Dale Arends, Roger Faulstick, Arlyn Kleinwolterink, Merle Koedam, Mike Schulte, John Steensma, Pam Wymore

CEO Member Absent: Barry Anderson

CEO Members Excused Absence: Pam Jordan, Tim Schumacher

1. Call to Order – 9:35am
2. Introduction of Members, State Staff and Guests
3. Welcome
4. Agenda Review
5. Approval of September 28, 2017 Meeting Minutes
 - a. RWDB Vote - Motion Lee Beem, Second Ken Vande Brake, *Approved*
 - b. CEO Vote - Motion Mike Schulte, Second Pam Wymore, *Approved*
6. Approval of October 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes
 - a. RWDB Vote - Motion Ken Vande Brake, Second Reva Arends, *Approved*
 - b. CEO Vote - Motion Arlyn Kleinwolterink, Second Merle Koedam, *Approved*
7. Approval of November 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes
 - a. RWDB Vote - Motion Diane Nelsen, Second Rhonda Jager-Pippy, *Approved*
 - b. CEO Vote – Motion Pam Wymore, Second Mike Schulte, *Approved*
8. WIOA Core Partner Update – Adult Education and Literacy, Iowa Dept. for the Blind, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation
Lori - last month refocused on what has been accomplished over the past year and a half, and now focusing on what we still want to accomplish. Have worked hard on common referral form and process. Next piece is to focus on ongoing communication between programs, it sounds simple, but is more complex than it sounds. Work still to be done to improve communication flow, and make sure plans align. Planning an outside speaker to come in and help with alignment at the next meeting (Brenda Clark Hamilton).

Val - Collaboration is more difficult to put into practice, so plan is to put collaboration strategies in place to enhance what we're already doing.

9. Resignations of Region 3-4 RWDB Members, Adult Education and Literacy, and City Official

George Kruger sent an e-mail resigning. We need Clay County male democrat based on board alignment. Have two members of city council willing to consider serving. Lisa Washington has resigned her position, position will be filled by new individual hired by Iowa Lakes Community College, so both colleges will still be represented on board with one in AEL and one in higher education.

10. Oath of Office - Community College Representative to Region 3-4 RWDB – Jason Anderson
Swearing in by Dale Arends, CEO Chair

Dale Arends swore in Jason Anderson with the oath. Jason signed necessary paperwork, group welcomed Jason to the board.

11. Region 3-4 Local Workforce Plan Modification

Val explained the modification, see pages 11 to 16 of the packet. Some brief group conversation around the detailed nature of priority of service for widows of veterans.

- a. RWDB vote - Motion Ken Vande Brake, Second Diane Nelson, *Approved*
- b. CEO vote - Motion Merle Koedam, Second Arlyn Kleinwolterink, *Approved*

12. Update on Realignment Committee meetings held in December and January

Val - participated through phone on the committee meetings that have been held so far. The November minutes are in the packet. Thanks to Michael for the meeting minutes. At the meeting on December 6th basically three region structures were presented to the committee. The three scenarios were four regions, three regions, and two regions. They indicated the only scenario they could really afford was the two region scenario. This is not a "yes" committee – there is a great deal of discussion and the committee is very interested and engaged and wanting to do the right thing, with considerations of the citizens of Iowa. IWD continues to state that no offices will close, and at this time no staff will be displaced. However, it has been pointed out to the committee that if they move to a two region certified One-Stop, it makes it easier to close offices. Even though closing the offices isn't a consideration now, future budget constraints may influence that. Committee asked to see maps of 6, 7, or 8 region scenarios. Next meeting is set for February 9th from 12 to 2pm. Val will send call information out to everyone so anyone can listen in.

Rosie - State board will be meeting quarterly because committee won't have a recommendation in place by February or March. Want to hear what people are thinking, and what will happen with currently existing boards. Other boards could exist under new regional boards, but committee is concerned that people will be lost.

Question – If you're going to large regions but keeping small groups active, where is the financial savings?

Rosie: That's the question – because no cost will be assigned to this. DOL said that all the money really needs to come to the region, and then have someone in the region to put that money out.

What would 2 regions look like?

Current maps strictly divided by population and money. Rosie: The committee was not impressed with that map.

As Ben said in our last meeting, is it really going to be a cost savings, or are we just shifting how we spend the money? If you hire fulltime board support those dollars will get spent, where we have a more conservative spending habit locally. That scenario really needs to be looked at of how money will be saved.

Janet – we've asked to see how the new plan will save money. We need to see a comparison.

Lee– it seems like their one concern is saving dollars, but are they going to?

Diane – Feels like she has a good grasp of this area of the state, particularly education, but views are totally different than what Des Moines area schools see. These vast differences in needs of population, or what’s happening in the area, would be very different and puts us at a disadvantage because we’ll have a different perspective. Metro area doesn’t understand rural Iowa, it’s like we’re a foreign country. It doesn’t serve any of the rural areas to put Polk county in a region with any of us.

Rosie – Senator Bill Dotzler suggested that Polk be separate

Val – a lot of push back about rural voice and concern that the rural voice is being heard. Thankful that they’re willing to consider having a local board meet, but it will probably be advisory rather than having an actual vote.

Diane - How long of an advisory group existence does it take for someone to decide it is no longer needed?

Rosie – I don’t think 2 regions will realistically be considered. As hard as the decision is, it will be the implementation that will be key. The decision is really just the first baby step.

Lee – all the changes we’ve made through the years have worked, simply because of the input at the local level.

Rosie – whatever is decided, don’t stop talking don’t stop pushing. This is the board’s decision, but implementation is going to happen locally and regionally.

Diane - hard to imagine how it will run, without any guidance as to what the committee is thinking for representation

Janet – what if this was tracked more in terms of performance instead of just numbers? Conversation – group agrees, success rate rather than just quantity. Look at unemployment for our area compared to rest of the state.

13. Association of Iowa Workforce Partners (AIWP) Legislative Breakfast

Legislative breakfast was yesterday in Des Moines, Val was unable to attend due to a rapid response for a closing business. It was an opportunity for members to talk to legislators and provide education on workforce programs. Val hasn’t been able to talk to any counterparts yet to see how well it was attended and how it went. Not a lobbying event, just an educational event.

14. Association of Iowa Workforce Partners (AIWP) Annual Conference - Partnerships with Purpose - Wednesday, April 18 to Friday, April 20, 2018 – Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center – Des Moines

Page 17 in the packet includes the “save the date” for this event. If anyone wishes to attend, the board budget will be used to reimburse you for travel, lodging, and registration expenses. The pre-conference is on the 18th, the conference is the 19th and 20th. It’s a great conference with a lot of great speakers. Lots of presentations around partnerships and serving targeted populations. Register online, website is on the flyer.

15. Regional Sector Board Update (Jason, Jolene)

Jolene - We reconvened manufacturing sector board in December. Minutes are out, and quite a bit of momentum has built up again. Discussed barriers like skilled workers, childcare, housing, etc. Will be identifying leadership group. Lots of discussions and challenges, what stresses us out, what keeps us up at night? People selected different committees. Sector boards aren’t bound by boundaries, so a similar meeting may be convened in Algona. Industry people have to keep this going. Looking at dates the week of February 12th for next meeting.

Ag group – ready to reconvene and then had some stress over it, so will meet week of Feb. 19th in Emmetsburg.
Energy committee – meeting in March, dates to be locked down shortly.

Jason – we’re focusing on a manufacturing sector board, a little slower process. Being driven by the manufacturers, so in October there were 3 different information sessions, with a steering committee of 4 companies that took the lead. Felt it was very important that companies have financial skin in the game into this. 12 companies have come on board, and February will be the first meeting. Issues: marketing manufacturing better and hiring a part time position to drive their sector board. In the process of putting together a job description now, ideally with education or manufacturing background. Hope to see this model applied to other sector boards in the future.

16. One-Stop Program Updates

a. Region 3-4 Integration Statistics

Page 18, stats for membership numbers. Look at last column for total number of members receiving services. Climb in November December numbers due to seasonal layoffs, always all hands on deck. Two staff designated to work the floor each day, but others jump in constantly to meet the needs.

b. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Individualized/Training Participants/Expenditures

Budgets are fully obligated for the whole year. Been really focusing on the opportunity for customers to have a one-on-one job coach. Helping them get the skills they need, and then working with them one-on-one to get them where they need to be. Waiting list is established, when funding comes available we’re able to move people off the waiting list.

c. WIOA Expenditure Report through 12/31/17

Page 20 of the packet. Shows that we’re on target, nothing looks alarming here.

d. Recent and Upcoming Rapid Response Efforts in Region 3-4

Yesterday held a meeting for ColorFX workers being dislocated as of February 1st. 30 to 35 workers affected then, with 6 still staying on to help close. It sounds like maybe half have other jobs already lined up. Several partners attended to assist.

e. PROMISE JOBS Update

Linda – refer to handout. We’ve been asked to assist Fort Dodge office with their case load. Mainly utilizing phone to handle case loads. We’ve got great Promise Jobs staff who were excited to help with the higher case load.

f. Wagner-Peyser Update

Linda – see unemployment rates throughout the year and counties. Very low rates. You’ll see Dickinson County tick up when lakes jobs end, but still very low in this area. See county map in the back. There is also information on northwest Iowa STEM initiatives. This fall worked with Interstates in Sioux Center, and they had a manufacturing day and invited local school students. It was very enlightening, a great facility, and had more than 70 students attend who could do hands on things. Went to a seasonal migrant farm worker conference, very informative. Over 100 people there, discussing the needs of migrant farm workers and the agricultural entities employing them.

g. WIOA Performance PY17

Val - No regional performance information available yet. Expecting to get that information within the next quarter.

h. Disability Employment Initiative – New Disability Resource Coordinator – Bridget Richards

Erin Pingel – Erin accepted new position with Northwest Iowa Planning and Development. Erin introducing new member, Bridget Richards taking position as DRC. Has a great background in social work, and is a veteran.

Bridget – about 9 years or experience in counseling and therapy. Group welcomed Bridget.

17. Regional Disability Standing Committee – Lori Kolbeck

See pages 21-37 in the packet. Lori shared report last fall of the results of these two initiatives, but hadn't asked for a vote to approve at that time. Parking isn't accessible, so it will take some time to find a way to make it more accessible. Some of the layout of rooms need to be setup better, maybe simple things like changing out tables, or arranging them differently within the rooms.

Approval of Accessibility Report

- a. RWDB Vote - Motion Rhonda Jager-Pippy, Second Renae Sipma, *Approved*
- b. CEO Vote Motion Mike Schulte, Second Merle Koedam, *Approved*

Approval of Focus Group Report

- a. RWDB Vote - Motion Greg Ver Steeg, Second Diane Nelson, *Approved*
- b. CEO Vote - Motion Arlyn Kleinwolterink, Second Pam Wymore, *Approved*

18. Rosie Thierer – State SCSEP Director

Rosie – Senior Community Services Employment Program. Core partneres, 17 other key partners. Authorized under older Americans act, federal legislation that says you shall do this. Existed since 1965. Green Thumb was original program you might be familiar with. Funded by DOL. Required partner under WIOA. 55 or older, 125% poverty line, and not employed. Val will forward out provider map and key information from Rosie. rosemary.thierer@iowa.gov
Help us spread the word of the program, and tap into these resources.

19. State Staff Update

No state staff in attendance.

20. Partner Updates

Lori – in back of packet you'll see state rehabilitation council report. Rosie is on that committee.

Rosie – committee is designed to provide oversight to provide services to disabled people within the state of Iowa. Federally mandated, meets quarterly, talks about a variety of issues. Feb. 14th legislative day to meet with representatives. State budget allocates about 20% of voc. rehab. budget, the majority comes from the federal government. We lose federal dollars when state doesn't give as much (4 to 1 match).

Lori – report is done on a statewide basis, but locally Fort Dodge office covers 14 counties, serves between 750 and 800 people on the caseload at any given time. Work with high school students (15% of budget) 175 students need more intensive services, but can provide basic services to any student with a disability in high school. 977 receiving special education services grades 9-12, 572 have been connected with services.

Melissa – Proteus, helps migrant seasonal farm workers. Hosting a long sleeve tee shirt drive. Donations would gladly be accepted. It's the last week of March, please consider bringing long sleeve tee shirts to next meeting.

Sarah - High school equivalency diploma. With new legislation but there will be other ways to earn a diploma.

Jolene - New GAP program – drones. Teaching commercial license test prep and skills class. Also, industrial maintenance short term program is available, as well as electrical level 1 and HVAC level 1.

Notes for next time:

Several people could be just a little bit late to the next meeting due to another meeting conflict.

21. Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment (March 22, 2018)