

**Region 14 Regional Workforce Development Board Meeting**  
**IowaWORKS Center, 215 N Elm, Creston**  
**Official Minutes, November 19, 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, Dorene Rusk, Ann Schlapia, Karin Freml, Darla Helm, Jane Briley, Steve Gilbert, Don Keast, Sara Bath, Billie Jo Greenwalt. Absent were Lana McMann, Jason Cook, Katrina Fleharty, Wayne Pantini. Ex-Officio members absent were Rod Shields, Dave Homan (excused), Paul Griffen, Tom Kedley.

**RWDB Quorum – Yes.**

County Elected Officials present: Dennis Brown (Union Co.), Merlin Dixon (Adams Co.), Dan Christensen (Decatur Co.), Dean Robins (Clarke Co.), and Charles Ambrose (Taylor Co.). Absent were Paul Dykstra (Ringgold Co.), Steven Ratcliff (Montgomery Co.), Dave Homan (Adair Co.).

**CEO Quorum – Yes.**

WIOA/MATURA staff present: Ron Ludwig and Sue McElwain.

**Minutes** – Dorene made a motion to approve the minutes of the 9/17/18 meeting. Jane seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda** – Ron added “Approve Steve Gilbert as an RWDB Board Member” to the agenda next. Dorene made a motion to accept the amended agenda. Dan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approve Steve Gilbert as an RWDB Board Member** - Jane made a motion to reappoint Steve Gilbert to the RWDB. Don seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Iowa’s Regional Workforce Structure Update –Ron** – Ron and Steve attended the State Workforce Board meeting today. The State is still waiting to hear feedback from DOL on the 3 waivers submitted. DOL has 90 days to respond. The State should hear back from the DOL in December. When they hear, they will call the subcommittee back. Steve said the subcommittee approved a 3 region scenario, but this was not approved by the State. They sent it back to the subcommittee to re-work. The next step is waiting to hear back about the waivers. The next State Workforce Board meeting is scheduled for 2/18/19. The subcommittee will meet prior to that. Ben Humphrey assured Steve this office would stay in operation. Sara said the offices that closed, Webster City and Fort Madison, were expansion offices.

**Compass Military Services Update** – This request for approval as an eligible training provider was sent to us in error. The State has taken care of this.

**Partner Report Updates – Title I – Ron Ludwig** – Ron handed out a preliminary eligible training provider list. Sara said a notice was sent out asking providers to update their programs into the new system. Sara has an email address that all correspondence should go to.

In January Ron would like to begin board training for both boards at every meeting to educate the boards. He will email the information out ahead of time. Moving forward the CEO Board will have a more prominent role. Sara noticed a webinar called State and Regional Boards 101. She will attach a link and send out.

**Iowa Workforce Development – Sara Bath** – Two weeks ago a large number of staff were trained on the new computer system. This will help in working with Voc Rehab, help with partnering, retrieving data, etc. Goal is to start the new system 3/5/19. To increase referrals to Title I, customers will meet for 10-15 minutes one-on-one with an advisor. They are also prepping for the UI season. Darla said at the core partners meeting, most VR staff didn't know about the new system. Sara said their case maintenance won't change. This will just give them additional access to business services information. The new system will also collect more accurate data.

A registered apprenticeship event was held here last Friday, then they had an open house and invited employers in to explain the registered apprenticeship program. Two registered apprenticeship workshops are held each month to educate people.

**Adult Education Literacy – Darla Helm** – Jolene asked the number of individuals in our region without their high school equivalency? Darla is not sure. The Department of Education does have a new option – a credit recovery program. Some people may be eligible to go this route instead of taking the whole Hi-Set program. Not every community college is applying for this. SWCC was just notified last week that they have received this. They are reviewing 2-3 transcripts now. This could be a great option for employability. However, for the average person, Hi-Set is probably the better option.

**Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation – Dorene Rusk** – Voc Rehab's fiscal year ends 9/30. They are compiling stats to determine the effectiveness of their program. A goal is to decrease entitlement program use and reduce the dependency on monthly support. Dorene had a handout looking at these stats agency wide, for the Council Bluffs office, and for the Creston office. Agency wide 791 people received monthly support totaling over \$661,000. After the program closed, this amount dropped to approximately \$500,000. For the Council Bluffs office,

65 people received monthly support totaling \$55,000. After the program closed, this was reduced to \$40,000. For the Creston office, 14 received monthly support totaling over \$10,000. After the program closed, this was reduced to \$6000/per month.

Voc Rehab also has a transition program (15%) in which they help students transition from school to work, or from school to post-secondary education. The idea to get them the skills they need at the beginning of their career. They also look at the middle skills gap, what are the best types of jobs, where's the demand, etc. If they don't spend this 15%, it has to go back to the State.

**Economic Development – Wayne Pantini** – No report.

Ann said the Future Ready Iowa Summit was hosted here last month. The final agenda focused more on registered apprenticeships. 110 participants attended. Steve said Director Townsend was impressed with the student involvement.

Jolene noted a difference between WIA and WIOA is that focus shifted from the individual applying for services to the businesses. There is also an emphasis on sustaining a qualified workforce, partnerships with core partners, working with businesses, and maintaining a talent pool. Jolene has reached out to William Berning, the new business services person for our region. Steve feels another big priority is for small businesses to have a succession plan in place. Four small local hardware businesses have closed recently. Merlin said they are seeing this in Corning also. We need to train people on how business and industry works, so more people will stay in our communities.

**Requests for Agenda Items for Next Meeting on 1/21/19**

**Adjourn** – Charles made a motion to adjourn. Jane seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.