

**REGION 7
Regional Workforce Development Board**

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 15, 2018 – 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Conference Room D

Cedar Valley IowaWorks

3420 University Ave.

Waterloo, IA

Conference Call Number: (866) 685-1580 Code: 4772635870

Region 7 Workforce Investment Board:

Attended-

Dustin Brocka (Non-Voting)
Deborah Collett
Chris Hannan (Non-Voting)
Debra Hodges-Harmon
Mike Howell
Sandra Jensen
Jamie Kramer
Lisa Lorenzen
Richard McBurney
Karla Organist
Andy Trower (Non-Voting)
Amber Youngblut

Absent-

Keaghan Brunscheon
Lauren Call
Janis Cramer
Jim Denholm
Rachel Faust
Kelly Flege
Jeff Frost
Stefanie Hartel
Linda Laylin
Clayton Ohrt
Chris Parker
Aaron Sauerbrei
Kochell Weber-Ricklefs
Mike Witt

1. Welcome

Called to order at 4:08 pm by Deborah Collett.

2. Review and Act

November 15, 2018 Agenda and September 27, 2018 Minutes.

Deborah Collett asked for additions/corrections. None made. Motion to approve by Deborah Hodges Harmon, Mike Howell to 2nd, all in favor to approve agenda for September.

3. Director's Announcements

a. Trucking with the Troops-

Hawkeye Community College approved grant. Money available to train 20 individuals. Cost of education covers applying for finding to cover all costs associated except cost of permit and Urinalysis. Spouses and children are eligible as well. Robin Knight is the Vet Rep on campus and as she gets info, it goes straight to referral for Trucking with the Troops . Extra flier's available if needed. Three have started training already.

4. System Report

Handout included for system report. Art Van Furniture and Country View to close. Wells Fargo in Des Moines to lay off over 400. Wells Fargo announced they were downsizing over 24,000 people. Nationwide is looking to lay off 80. Nationwide was not clear on why, possibly just downsizing as well. Deborah Collett was thinking Country View was going to retain staff. Chris Hannan clarified that some staff may be able to "bump" to stay. Meeting on the 11/21/18 to figure out staffing and lay off needs, not much more will be known until then. Talking about 61 people possibly laid off. Art Van could be open through December.

Disability Employment Initiative grant is ending in March 2019. 2nd VISTA worker is on board. Manufacturing and Health Care are both on board now. Crystal Jennings is Health Care, Janna is MFG.

Chris Hannan shared that the office is working on submitting reimbursement to DHS for serving folks with EBT benefits. This will help with budgets and stretch the dollar to serve more.

Sandra Jensen shared next on the Van G Miller Adult Learning Center. Pilot class experimenting (IBEST) Business community IBEST class, currently ELL adults are learning while getting GED. The pilot has been an opportunity to learn many things. The intention is for it look different when it is offered again in the fall. ELL working on computer applications and this program is going well. Coretha Montouth is employed as a trainer and teacher at IWD, and is coming to help once a week to help with resume development and customer service lecture. She will be teaching customer service certificates from the new center on Fridays. Spring semester dates are listed. Handouts were made available for dates of center open house. Please note new phone number. It is active. New announcements for amenities on site include child care/preschool, and a health clinic. Exceptional Persons Inc. will run childcare/preschool. Could be a great partnership. Hawkeye College and EPI employees will be available for first spot of school. Will be interviewing Café manager will be tomorrow. The intention is for students in Hospitality program to run the cafe. Gathering Hall will be called the Martin Luther King Jr. Hall. The public can reserve it for use to rent. There will be different prices for public vs private use.

Andy Trower shared that at the expungement clinic, 43 people registered, 42 came. Still awaiting results of the clinic.

At the Engage, Empower, Act Diversity Conference; 270 people came. The speakers were great and all agreed it was a good partnership. National Disability Awareness Month Presentation on October 25th. 88 people were there. Employees, partner agencies, and community members all attended. Also gave awards for employers who hire people with disabilities. Kwik Star, Jared Sulkie, and Dalton, and the Isle all received awards.

Lastly, Waverly Manufacturing Night- It was an unexpected success. All said and done, 125 parents and students attended. Demand was so high; a call was needed to employ a second school bus for use in transporting all attendees. GMT and United Equipment gave scholarships at the end of event to seniors. Karla Organist asked about MFG night. Attendees met at the Waverly Shell Rock High School. Attendees took buses and each bus went to two locations. All the businesses that participated went back to the high school to visit with all people, and then scholarships were given at the end. Way more kids than parents. All agree it was a good turnout. Had such demand that they needed to cut off how many can come. All work in this area is framed at trying to turn manufacturing as a pathway and turn the attitudes differently into it being OK to turn it into a legit career.

National Apprenticeship Week Open House- Located at the Cedar Falls Hawkeye Center. Please RSVP if you can come. Recognition of sponsors or Apprenticeships Tour, and dedicate the new carpentry lab. There will be a program to follow.

Mike Howell shared stats that the Waterloo staff are leaders in the state and have successfully started the 2019 fiscal year with high numbers. Fiscal year 2019, numbers are to date what we have done so far.

5. Economic Impact of AEL

Sandy shared and added the dedication of the new center will be January 29th. Event is by invitation only, and there will be public open houses-dates will be announced. Dedication had to work along with the semester and juggling dates to work with everyone's schedules.

6. Economic Impact of AEL

Share and refer to handout. Article published about adults getting appropriate literacy skills. Refer to article shared. Emphasized importance of investing nationally in adult education to address entire workforce needs.

7. Informational Items (reminder)

- i. FRI Cedar Valley-November 13, 2018
- ii. Apprenticeship Appreciation HCC Cedar Falls Center November 16, 2018

Employment Summit- Dr. Allen and Dr. Nook, forum discussed on how we can move forward and intentions for future. Broke down components of Future Ready Iowa, encouraged all to pick an area and be part of a cadre to help plan. 300 people attended. Was complimented that by far, it was the best summit in whole state. Key note speakers were great. Momentum and synergy was wonderful. People want to come back and do a full day of training around ideas shared. Went on tour of specific spots in Waterloo to review. Now have a realistic view to the community and the barriers that come along with that. Statements powerful and the Mayor Hart and Director Townsend were aligned in closing remarks. Presenters Brian I. Parsons and Luke Kujacznski knew their stuff and had statistics and knowledge behind all information shared. It was mentioned that two articles for worst cities for African Americans is Waterloo Iowa as the #1 city in the whole country. There was confusion as to how data was collected and analyzed.

8. Upcoming RWDB Meetings (All hosted at Cedar Valley Iowa WORKS at 4 pm)

February 28, 2019

April 25, 2019

June 27, 2019

September 26, 2019

November 28, 2019

All staff professional day, will be at new center February 18, 2019.

Center reorganization meeting Monday 11/19/18.

Proposed to hold some future board meetings at new site. Will take a look at dates. April, June, September are a possibility.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Deborah Collett. Karla Organist to second. All in favor.

RWDB Meeting concluded at 4:52 pm.