

Region 14 Regional Workforce Development Board Meeting
IowaWORKS Center, 215 N Elm, Creston
Official Minutes, March 18, 2019

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

County Elected Officials present: Merlin Dixon (Adams Co.), Dan Christensen (Decatur Co.), Charles Ambrose (Taylor Co.), Dave Homan (Adair Co.), Dean Robins (Clarke Co.), and Rudy Kinard (Montgomery Co.). Absent were Dennis Brown (Union Co.) and Ron Landphair (Ringgold Co. - excused). **CEO Quorum – Yes.**

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

Minutes – Charles made a motion to approve the minutes of the 1/21/19 meeting. Jane seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda –Jane made a motion to accept the agenda as sent. Charles seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Iowa’s Regional Realignment Update and Discussion –Ron – Ron passed out the 6 region map approved by the State Workforce Development Board. Steve is on this board. The gray lines are the existing community college boundaries. The bottom box shows the funding divided among the 6 regions. Jolene believes subcommittee discussions were held with all the community colleges. Ron said DOL indicated there were enough funds for a various number of regions. Any existing regions (the CEO Boards) can appeal this proposal to the Governor and DOL. Jolene asked the funding strategy? How was it figured? We would like clarification on this. Ron pointed out regions can share people. The one stop operator could cover 2 or more regions. Steve said the waiver applied for was granted. Ron said the community colleges have been very flexible.

Our CEO Board did file an appeal. Region 16 did also. It addressed the funding questions, program coordinator, and a request to allow us to operate as Region 14 as this goes through the appeal process. This region receives tremendous support and we don’t want to lose what

we have. The next step is for the CEO Board to send an appeal to DOL. Rudy asked what the appeal could achieve? Charles said ideally, to keep Region 14 as is. If we can't, then map A would be a better option for us. Karin asked what this would do to our budget? Ron said we don't know yet. Charles suggested Regions 14 and 16 stay the same and share duties. The county could be the fiscal agent. Charles feels if the current region realignment goes through, we will lose out down here. Each region will only be required to have one 1 stop center. Ron pointed out the duties of the new positions are currently being done at little or no cost. Bottom line: this board operates effectively and efficiently the way it is. Steve said the original non-compliance issue discovered by DOL was that the CEO boards needed more oversight. Steve said the question was asked what if the regions couldn't make ends meet with the budget allowed? DOL said they would grant leniency to make it work. Jolene asked the timing to hear back on the appeal? Charles is not sure. Sara said they are allowing 2 years to get to the 6 regions. There are several steps to take before that. WIOA program year ends 6/30. Then what happens? What about fall classroom training funding? Is the RFP out? Ron didn't think so. He will let the boards know when it comes out. The boards had a lengthy discussion on this topic.

Steve suggested the CEOs draft a letter to the State Attorney asking for clarification, direction, guidance going forward. Ron and Sara agreed we need guidance. **Dave Homan made a motion for the CEO Board to draft a letter to the State Attorney asking for clarification, direction, guidance going forward. Merlin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Dave Homan made a motion at the same time to file an appeal to the Department of Labor. Merlin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Partner Report Updates – Title I – Ron Ludwig – Current budget was passed out.

Iowa Workforce Development – Sara Bath – Sara gave an overview of the Integrated Continuum Plan which was approved by the Disability Access Committee earlier this evening. The committee completed an Integration Continuum Self-Assessment developed by WINTAC, Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center working with workforce centers to make sure they are compliant. The self-assessment topics were outreach and intake, assessments, career services, case management, career pathways, and business engagement. The committee rated themselves on where they feel they are at now starting with isolation, communication, coordination, collaboration, and the goal being integration. They chose 3 areas for improvement: outreach and intake, career pathways, and business engagement. Then they completed a Next Steps Action Planning Tool which includes activities to improve the areas of concern, key players to make this happen, expected outcomes, timeline, and assistance needed to achieve the goal. Activities were:

Outreach and Intake – 1) Develop core partner procedure for job ready customers, 2) host a library appreciation open house here the end of April, 3) facilitate a customer service certification program for job seekers and employers.

Career Pathways – 1) Educate core partners on GAP/PACE credit and non-credit classes, 2) have core partners attend registered apprenticeship workshops, 3) educate core partner leadership on sector partner boards.

Business Engagement – 1) Work better at promoting upcoming events and updating the distribution list, 2) hold core partner business team meetings, 3) host a business panel workshop.

The hope is to complete all goals within a year. They hope this is an on-going project.

Adult Education Literacy – Darla Helm – Darla applied for an AmeriCorps grant and was approved. We will find a member to work out of this office and this person will work for all the core partners. This person will help with intake, career exploration, orientations, assessments, workshops, referrals, etc. The first term will be 4/1-8/31. There may be another term after that. This person will receive a stipend, then an educational award upon completion. This will benefit the person also by increasing their job skills. There are a couple applicants interested. If the person is in high school, they can start after graduation. This grant is literacy based, and any organization can apply for it.

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation – Dorene Rusk – Dorene feels it has been a wonderful experience to be located here in this office. The coordination and collaboration are very helpful to her and her job.

Every summer Voc Rehab holds pre-employment workshops. They are working with about 15 high schools. They are holding 4 workshops this June in Lenox, Creston, Nodaway Valley, and Central Decatur schools. Every year the attendance increases. To be eligible a person must be in high school and have a disability. They do not need to be enrolled in Voc Rehab, but they do need to have an IEP or a 504 plan.

Economic Development – Wayne Pantini – Wayne is not here tonight.

Requests for Agenda Items for Next Meeting on 5/20/19 – Can go to Ron or Sue.

Adjourn – Jane made a motion to adjourn. Sara seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.