

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

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

WIOA/MATURA staff present: Ron Ludwig and Sue McElwain. IWD Partner present: Randall McQueeney.

Minutes – Rudy made a motion to approve the minutes of the 9/16/19 meeting. Dan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

November Agenda – There are no changes to the agenda. Rudy made a motion to accept the November agenda as mailed. Charles seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Realignment/Transition Update: Charles Ambrose – Charles has not heard from the DOL yet regarding our appeal. Hope to hear by the January meeting. THE CEOs have attended meetings. The transition process is ongoing. \$1.1 million is proposed for our new region (region 6). Regions are struggling to hire the required personnel. They did say it is acceptable to combine the regional director and the one stop operator. There is a meeting in Des Moines on 11/20 to look at different arrangements. They would like the regions to move forward in hiring a director and fiscal agent, but there will be no money until 7/1. There is a lot up in the air. Region 6 would be 25 counties from Council Bluffs to Ottumwa. The Transition Plan was sent out electronically. Jolene asked about the RWDB? Merlin said the CEO board will appoint the RWDB members, but they are having trouble getting the CEO board members together. There are guidelines on how to choose the RWDB board. Community colleges cannot serve on

the local boards. The service provider cannot be the fiscal agent. Charles asked why the county auditor couldn't be the fiscal agent? Sara pointed out Region 14 has the best attendance of CEO members. Jolene mentioned we are not talking about customers anymore. The Board mostly talks about restructuring. Jolene hopes the program participants don't suffer from all this. Ron noted all partners here work well together. We will continue to forge ahead.

Partner Report Updates – Title I – Ron Ludwig – We are continuing to work with people. Not very many UI claims yet. We are still conducting workshops, job placements, etc.

Iowa Workforce Development – Sara Bath – Gearing up for UI season. The new computer system is working well. The first round of data looks good. The child care provider fast track training here was successful. Ottumwa conducted a course this week, and a class is scheduled to start in Ames in January. Under Future Ready Iowa, Sara is working with the AEA and Ann Schlapia on having educators go into manufacturing plants as a work experience learning tool. They will be doing tours, going over Future Ready Iowa, Last Dollar Scholarship, discussing high demand jobs, etc.

This is Sara's last meeting with us. They have moved her closer to her home area of Ames and Des Moines. She said she learned a lot here and thanked everyone. Randall McQueeney will be taking over as IWD representative on the Region 14 RWDB. He is the Operations Manager at the Council Bluffs office too.

Adult Education Literacy – Darla Helm – Not in attendance tonight.

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation – Dorene Rusk – October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month. They participated in the 10/23/19 block party. Approximately 300 people came through the office. With a grant they hired a Vocational Rehabilitation Intermediary Network, Farrah Richie. She will provide pre-employment training in the schools for people with disabilities in group and individual training sessions. The 6 schools participating are Creston, Nodaway Valley (Greenfield), Clarke, Southwest Valley (Corning), East Union, and Central Decatur.

Economic Development – Wayne Pantini – Future Ready Fest scheduled for this month has been postponed until spring. The Labor Shed study conducted every few years is now moving to SW Iowa. They have started the process in Creston. Surveys have gone out to homes already. Surveys are conducted by mail and phone. This information is used by local employers for new hires, annual reviews, etc. It is used by new businesses in the region as well as retention and expansion for existing businesses.

Along these lines, Sara said the U.S. Census is hiring. Ann said the Labor Shed information is used from an education stand point too.

Requests for Agenda Items for 1/20/20 Meeting – Send to Ron or Sue.

Adjournment – Merlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.