

**VERMILION COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
CHALLENGE A COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2005 MEETING
VERMILION COUNTY COURT HOUSE ANNEX
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Jim Anderson Guy Banicki Nancy Boesdorfer Diane Hall
Lawrence B Jahn Kay Smoot Terri Tate Diana Wyatt

STAFF: Lori Brewster

CALL TO ORDER – Champion Dr. Alice Jacobs called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM. Introductions were done.

REVIEW OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLANS FOR PRIORITY 8, 9, AND 10 –

Priority #8— There was discussion that the Goal of Priority #8 was actually an action plan. The suggestion was made to move the Goal under the action plan leaving the wording for the Goal and Objective as Expand the Finish First Program.

Goal - Expand the Finish First Program. **Action Plan - I.** Expand the outreach of VA's Finish First initiative to include a CD/DVD with stories of residents who got their GED or HS diploma and became successful. **II.** Publish the Challenge 2 matrix that details all the VA and DACC career awareness activities for all high school students online and in hard copy to share with parents and residents of the County. Explore grants for dropout prevention to make this CD/DVD.

Suggestion for Benchmark would be to watch the growth of the number of employers.

Brewster clarified that the changes of rewording from today's meeting would go through the October Executive meeting.

Priority #9—

After discussion, the re-wording of the **Goal -** Expand the discussion of mutual education and business issues and needs. The re – wording of the **Action Plan -** The results of this meeting would be taken to the VCWIB to implement its recommendations. The VCWIB will convene an annual meeting of a Business/Education team comprised of superintendents, senior staff of the major employers in the County, DACC, VVEDS, and Vermilion Advantage.

Priority #10—

After discussion, it was decided that the rewording of the **Goal -** Renew focus on trades/drafts and vocational training in the county. The re-wording of the **Action Plan -** The ROE should hold workshops for teachers to demonstrate how Career Cruising can be integrated into their lesson plans. Students need info regarding skills requirements and average salaries and career advancement in these occupations.

Priority #11—

After discussion the re-wording of the **Goal -** Identify and promote best practices and partnerships in the County. The re – wording of the **Action Plan - I.** Challenge A will note the partnerships that are "best practices", including: Career Cruising, Tech Prep, Career Expo, A World in Motion, Mrs. Mary, Mobile_Career Lab, NIMS, MERIT, AIMS, CAN programs,

Engineers for Tomorrow scholarship, Careeropoly Career Fair, Character Counts, Finish First and Step Ahead. **II.** These exceptional programs will be featured on a regular basis on the VCWIB website and in the local paper. Students in these programs will be recognized. **III.** Catalog all the existing partnerships between educators and businesses around the County. Place this information online and in brochures for all residents to pick up. Ask the local newspaper to also link to it.

Priority #12—

After discussion the re-wording of the **Goal** – Improve and increase access to career services opportunities. Change the **Action Plan** to read: **I.** A Career Services Office needs to be established at the One-Stop that is modeled after the DACC Career Services (subject to identifying resource for staffing), with close collaboration between these offices. **II.** Expand resources and provide transportation between high schools for internship and job shadowing experiences. **III.** Obtain more appropriate career materials for primary grades – Expand and or establish career resource library in all schools and public libraries located within the communities.

Priority #13—

Discussed placing both the Goal and Objective and the Action Plan under Priority #11 Action Plan.

Priority #14—

Discussed placing the Goal of Priority #14 and Action Plan under Priority #12 Action Plan and add wording: Expand and/or establish career resource library in all schools and public libraries located within the communities.

COMMENTS – Anderson asked that the matrix be updated to reflect all the changes discussed in all previous meetings. Brewster informed that the matrix had been updated with a few exceptions and noted the changes that the updated Priority #1 Action Plan would read: set up resource for students outside #118 to take dual enrollment and/or advanced placement math and science courses in centralized sites. Priority #3-3 Benchmarks would be changed to read distributed through DACC/VVEDS. Priority #3-4 Action Plan would be Career trend and labor market data should be distributed to all guidance counselors and parents in the County. Priority #4 should be deleted as it has been moved to Challenge B. The changes made at today's meeting would be reflected on the matrix at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING – Monday, October 17, 2005 at 1:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was informally adjourned.