

**VERMILION COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
CHALLENGE B COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE September 13, 2005 MEETING  
Vermilion Co. Court House Annex 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
6 N. Vermilion St., Danville IL**

**PRESENT:** Ray Broderick Craig DeArmond Mark Denman Bob Elghammer  
Mary Heckler Jim Owens Dee Ann Ryan Kerry Smith Kay Smoot

**Staff:** Lori Brewster

**CALL TO ORDER** – Champion Mary Heckler called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. Introductions were done.

**ACTION ITEM: Challenge B accept Challenge A—Goal and Objective Priority #4—**  
The Court System needs to encourage juvenile offenders to successfully complete classes in character education, customer service and their HS diploma. Action Plan – Have meetings between educators, the One-Stop staff and the court system to implement this program. After discussion it was decided to incorporate Challenge A—Priority #4 with Challenge B—Priority #5. Action Plan: Invite the One-Stop staff to participate with the Juvenile Justice Council and educators. Have meetings between educators, the One-Stop staff, and the County system to implement this program. Suggestion to Action Plan would be to invite One-Stop Partners to Juvenile Justice Council. Educators and court system are already meeting

**REVIEW PRIORITY #1 –** Identify students in need of special services as early as possible and to provide appropriate interventions. These youth need to be assessed for emotional/conduct disorders and provided with a comprehensive program with behavioral intervention plans. No further discussion.

**DISCUSS PRIORITIES –**

**PRIORITY #2 –** Hire a full time Grant Writer to serve all of the schools and agencies working on the dropout problem and related educational challenges. Elghammer informed that he had spoken with Mrs. Robinson, who would be able to begin in October. In the meantime Elghammer and Ryan were writing a joint proposal to send out to pharmaceutical companies. Elghammer would contact Mrs. Robinson for assistance. Brewster informed that she had spoken with the IRS and the VCWIB should hear from IRS by October 4, 2005 regarding the 501c3. Heckler commented that this is a priority to bring up to the VCWIB. Ryan commented that the problem is coming up with the funds to hire a grant writer. Owens commented that DACC has offered to help with grant writing and working under an umbrella.

**PRIORITY #3 –** Help area teachers handle low-income students more successfully. Study best practices in other school districts around the county and implement a countywide plan. Improve workforce readiness skills such as teamwork, computer savvy, listening, location information, business writing, and customer services orientation. Institute a Teachers' Summer Academy where teachers learn how to integrate workforce skills with their regular curricula.

Jim Owens informed that at the County Staff Development committee meeting announcement was that Kim Ellis of Framework for Understanding Poverty would be in the County on March 6, 2006. Development committee had added a component for community and the workforce on the evening of March 6, 2006 in hopes of getting the word out into the community through media blitz. Smoot informed that it would be multi-pronged approach. Kathy Haugen of the Regional Office will be sending information to each Superintendent and Principals. Scott Eisenhower will be forwarding information to the business community.

Brewster questioned whether Priority #3-2 Goal and Objective—Improve workforce readiness skills...assessment tests was being done. Response was that a portion is being done in the Junior year of High School through the Prairie State Achievement Exam.

Denman suggested that all the Goal and Objective pieces of Priority #3 be combined into one Priority statement and create an Action Plan from that.

Ryan suggested that the new matrix to send to committee be 1) Goal and Objective; 2) Currently being done; 3) Suggested Action Plan; and match those up with the person or agency responsible; and 4) Required Funding.

Heckler suggested that the current matrix be sent to the committee for one last look to be certain that we have listed everything that is being done, on the top five (5) priorities, and add a column for "Funding".

Brewster summarized that the Challenge B first five Priorities would be sent to the committee members for review, Challenge B committee would meet one more time to review the responses, and then the Priorities would be taken to the Executive committee on October 20, 2005 and the WIB on November 17, 2005.

**COMMENTS** – No discussion.

**NEXT MEETING** – October 4, 2005 at 3:30 PM

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was informally adjourned.