

**VERMILION COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
CHALLENGE B COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2005 MEETING
Vermilion Co. Court House Annex 3rd floor
6 N. Vermilion St., Danville IL**

PRESENT: Mary Heckler Jim Owens Mike Metzen Craig DeArmond Lara Conklin Kerry Smith
Tracy Wahlfeldt

GUEST/STAFF: Lori Brewster

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Jim Owens, seconded by Tracy Wahlfeldt. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Priority 1-5 Matrix – Discussion was that Brewster would correct Matrix using the wording presented in Minutes for Priorities 1-5. The matrix would be then emailed to committee members, if Brewster receives no feedback the matrix would be presented to the WIB in November. If Brewster receives feedback the Committee would then wait until January to present to the WIB. The committee discussed and agreed to move Priority #4 Benchmark : “Provide every elementary student a book at registration and promote for volunteers to participate with listening to children read at school” to an Action Plan with the Benchmark August 2006, Priority #4 Benchmark - “Establish a meeting with elementary librarians and reading programs” to an Action Plan with Benchmark June 2006, and Priority #5 Benchmark “Identify Key Partner to sit on Juvenile Justice Council” to an Action Plan with Benchmark January 2006.

Motion to approve the wording of matrix as presented in the minutes with changes as discussed above was made by Tracy Wahlfeldt, seconded by Lara Conklin. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

**REVIEW OF CHALLENGE B GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLANS
PRIORITIES 6 THROUGH 10 –**

Heckler stated that the Challenge Champions are meeting tomorrow November 2, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. to cover the challenge process. Challenge B will be the pilot for the standardized form for the challenges.

Priority #6 Goal & Objective: Expand the opportunities for students to attend alternative programs in grades 6-12 .

Priority #6 Action Plan – Engage the WIB to help get funding to open an alternative school north of Danville.

There was discussion that District 118 Student Achievement task Force is in the process of setting up pilot programs for 2 middle schools; this should be shown in the “What Is Already Being Done” column.

A question was raised why the action plan stated north of Danville.

Response was that the schools north of Danville spend too much time in transporting and do not get the educations they need.

It was discussed in the RSSVP building is the Middle Fork school which is for kids who are expulsion eligible, the SED Program is there as well for those identified with emotional/behavior problems. There are no Truancy Alternative Schools in Vermilion County.

The Committee discussed that the role of the challenge was to look beyond what is available when schools have exhausted their resources.

There was discussion on a formal assessment of education entities in Vermilion County for what their needs are in alternative programs and what needs are not being met.

Modifications to Goals, Objectives and Action Plans were discussed.

Priority #6 Goal & Objective Modification - I. Expand the opportunities for students to attend alternative programs in grades K-12

Priority #6 Action Plan Modification – I. Formal assessment of Superintendents in Vermilion County to find out what their alternative programs needs are. ***I-A.*** Engage the WIB to help get funding to open an alternative school north of Danville

Priority #7 Goal and Objective – Establish a peer group within each school that would review procedures at all levels that involve at-risk students. The goal is to remove any obstacles that identify these students and to help them graduate with their class.

Priority #7 Action Plan – Start a parenting program to stress the importance of good nutrition for their children, reading out loud to them, stressing the importance of regular attendance and monitoring any drug, gang, or alcohol activity that their kids may be engaged in.

Committee held discussion on what Challenge 4 initially discussed for Priority #7 “removing obstacles” were for those who received free lunch kids versus the other kids that go through the ala cart line, kids were not eating lunch due to being singled out.

Discussion was that Catlin and Westville schools have swipe cards and maybe should be implemented in other schools.

Brewster would review initial minutes of Challenge 4 for clarification.

Suggestion was to come up with an advisory council at each school made up of teachers and students to review policy and procedures after the Ruby Payne training, to find out ways to improve school lunches etc.

Suggestion was made to switch the Action Plan with the Goal and Objective and revise the wording.

Priority #7 Goal & Objective Modification - Promote through appropriate parental organizations and school publications the awareness of good nutrition, reading aloud to your children, stressing the importance of regular attendance, drug awareness, gang related activity, and alcohol prevention that their kids may be engaged in.

Priority #7 Action Plan Modification – Establish a peer group within each school that would review procedures at all levels that involve at risk students. Review policy and procedures to identify obstacles following the Ruby Payne training.

Priority #8 Goal and Objectives: Develop a public relations campaign in conjunction with a strengthened Finish First program to stress the importance of achieving a high school education.

Brewster mentioned that Challenge E discussed the Finish First Program posters and promoting the program more through the smaller area newspapers.

Priority #8 Action Plan – Survey local students to determine a strategy to address their current motivations and lifestyle aspirations.

Wahlfeldt suggested for an action plan: **I.** Develop a list of all countywide publications.

I-A. Make information on these programs available for publication as a newspaper article.

Brewster suggested that the Action Plan - Develop a public relations campaign to stress the importance of achieving high school education.

Brewster informed that there is some duplication with Challenge E and suggested reviewing the Challenge E information.

PRIORITY #9 Goal and Objective – Better inform the public with school age children about services to help them, teach them about the value of remaining in the same school during the academic year, help them encourage their children to take rigorous courses throughout high school and place value on education and continuous learning.

Priority #9 Action Plan – Offer expanded alternatives to the traditional light load during the senior year of high school. Set up an educator council in each school to monitor students' mobility and to help reduce it. Set benchmarks so that measurable goals for all educational programs are met. Help social services agencies pool their resources so that waiting lists for counseling are reduced.

PRIORITY #10 Goal and Objective – Reduce student turnover/mobility rates

Priority #10 Action Plan – Clearly communicate the dropout risks associated with moving between various schools. Revise school policies that affect turnover and mobility.

There was discussion of blending Priority #9 and #10 with Priority #7.

PRIORITY #11 Goal and Objective – Enhance and publicize the “hotline” services available through The Center for Children and Family Services and CrossPoints to serve troubled youth and/or potential dropouts. Include a list of mentors available to talk to these young people.

Priority #11 Action Plan – Provide vitamins and medications directly to parents to give at home. The Goal is to remove the need to dispense medication at school.

Priority #16 Goal and Objective – Work with school nutritionist to provide more nutritional meals at breakfast and lunch to low-income students

Priority #16 – Action Plan – Provide activity transportation for students from school to the Y’s and other places for extra-curricular activities. Work with the local churches, which often have buses and volunteers.

There was discussion of possibly combining Priority #11 with #16.

Discussion was that the schools do not have nutritionist. Schools have expanded the breakfast programs because of state mandates for those school districts that have 40% low-income identification. The menus have to be nutritional and are approved by the State.

After discussion it was decided to show that #16 Goal and Objective is already being done and that Action Plan of Priority #11 and #16 does not go with Goal and Objective.

COMMENTS – Heckler informed that Brewster will update Matrix with changes discussed at today’s meeting and work on blending Priority #9 and #10 with #7.

NEXT MEETING – December 6, 2005 at 3:30 PM

The January meeting will be discussed at the December meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Metzen and seconded by DeArmond. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.