

Vermilion County Workforce Investment Board
Minutes of the Meeting of November 17, 2005
Vermilion County Court House Annex 6 N. Vermilion St. Danville

Present: Aletha Alexander
Kay Dequimpaul
Mary Heckler
Dave Kietzmann

John Alexander
Michael Dodge
Greg Hilleary
Peggy Kunze

Chuck Brooks
Jeff Fauver
Jeanne Housholder
Renee' Poke

Phearn Butler
Lisa Fudge
Jonathan Jett

Absent: Judy Allen
Dave Brown
Linda Federman
Mike Metzen
Mike O' Donnell
Judy Phillippe
Melanie Stevenson

Jim Anderson
Michael Brown
Vicki Haughn
Edward Michaels
Robert Oltean
Dee Ann Ryan
Tom Szott

Tyrie Baltimore
Dave Coleman
Dr. Alice Jacobs
Carol Nichols
Parsottam Patel
Eloy Salazar
Tracy Wahlfeldt

Jeannie Brandenberger
Gerry Donnelly
Gary Ludwig
Daniel Nobbe
Janet Payne
Mike Smith

Call to Order: Jeff Fauver called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. A quorum was not present. Fauver asked that Brian Hensgen give his presentation of Youth Program.

Hensgen distributed handouts of the Vermilion County Job Training Partnership Program. Hensgen informed of the general overview of the WIA program and some background on the Youth Program:

WIA Funding is Federal funds that are distributed to the State and then distributed to the local area.

The Vermilion County Board has chosen Danville Area Community College (DACC) as the grant recipient. DACC employs the JTP staff.

There are different WIA Programs:

1. 1A is for the Economically Disadvantaged Adults
2. 1D is for the Dislocated Workers
3. 1Y is for Economically Disadvantage Youth (younger youth 14-18 and older youth 19-21)
4. 1S funds are used if there are local plants closing; the local area can request to serve that population.

Hensgen reviewed former and current WIA Funding, Program Eligibility and the WIA Youth Program Intentions.

Currently there are 12 youth that will be served by the ITA process, 32 in-school youths and 90 out of school youths for a total of 134 youths to be served this year by the youth funding.

The WIA requires youth funds to be offered through a competitive process in the community, which is the Request for Proposal (RFP).

Hensgen reviewed the Youth Program targeted population, and the 5% window for those individuals that do not meet the income criteria, but have multiple barriers.

The RFP includes 10 Required Services required by WIA to be offered to the youth. The providers do not have to offer all 10, but has to show how the provider will offer those 10 through strong partnership with area service providers.

Reviewed were the federal government required 17 performance measures to make sure that the programs are working properly.

Since the implementation of WIA in July 2000 the JTP program has been a success and has brought in additional \$123,000 into the community for the program. The 2003-2004 final performance outcomes as well as the 2004-2005 draft outcomes were included in the hand out. For 2004-2005 it appears that LWIA 18 will meet or exceed performance outcomes; the N/A that appears is for older youth that were employed as they entered the program, but had multiple barriers. The N/A will not affect the performance measures.

Hensgen reviewed the changes being proposed through the WIA Reauthorization some being that 70% of youth funds are to be spent on out of school youth, the 7 performance measures affecting youth will be removed as 3 Common Measures are introduced. With the implementation of the 3 common measures it will become more difficult to serve the younger youth due to attainment of a degree or certificate. The current youth program has subcontracted 78% of funds to out of school youth, the JTP is prepared to track the common measures to prepare for negotiations with the State, all indication is to meet and exceed all performance measures to bring in \$15,000 - \$30,000 in incentive funds.

Hensgen stated that the RFP has some changes to help transition into the WIA reauthorization and to let service providers know there are some changes coming.

John Alexander asked if there were numbers for youth served outside Danville city limits. Hensgen responded that in the proposed RFP there are extra points for serving countywide youths.

Brooks commented that based on the funds available the Board needs to take a closer look at the number of youth that the local area is required to serve, as the higher requirement of the out of school youth continues to increase so does the cost per participant and the hands are tied with the bidders on what they need dollar wise to serve the outer school youth. Brooks does not feel the local area is doing right by it. Hensgen informed that December 15th is deadline to modify the current grant going into 06-07 and agreed that it would be difficult to help youth providers serve more youth with fewer funds.

Fauver officially called the meeting to order a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Chuck Brooks, seconded by John Alexander. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes of the 9-22-2005 meeting as presented was made by Renee' Poke, seconded by Phearn Butler. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

Executive Committee-

Challenge Update:

Champions – Fauver informed that the Champions approved a tool (included in the meeting packet) to be used by all challenge committees. The Champions also reviewed the challenge timetable and the Barriers to Employment spreadsheet work, which is work in progress. Brewster explained the Barriers to Employment spreadsheet, and informed that the committee does not want to duplicate what the challenge committees are working on and are wanting feedback on the challenges.

Challenge A – Included in the packet is the rewording of Challenge A. Motion to accept the rewording for Challenge A as presented was made by Mary Heckler, seconded by Jonathan Jett. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

Challenge B – Fauver informed that Challenge B has completed Priorities 1-5 in the matrix format. Fauver reminded that the local area can apply for \$50,000 in Technical Assistance Training Grants Funds, and as the Board receives 501 c 3 status the Board can access foundation dollars to assist with strategic plan projects. Motion to approve the Challenge B Matrix Priorities 1-5 as presented was made by Lisa Fudge, seconded by Dave Kietzmann approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

Challenge D – Will be meeting December 7th.

Presentation Accelerating Higher Achievements by Ricki Kozumplik – Fauver informed on how Kozumplik addressed the role of the WIB: the Board needs to be more visionary and more of setting the goals, the Partners are there more to drive the goal down. Fauver was very impressed with the presentation. Brewster will be providing the WIB Members that were not able to attend the presentation packet; Fauver encouraged the members to review material.

501 (c) 3 – Fauver informed that the Board did receive an extremely lengthy request for repackaging of information that was submitted originally. Brewster submitted the response November 1st to the IRS, which the IRS has responded and needs additional information.

State Workforce Conference – Brewster reported that she had attended presentation given by Dr. Hodgkinson. Brewster distributed Hodgkinson’s handout that was distributed at the conference regarding Job Growth in Illinois and Illinois population. Brewster reported on other statistics that Dr. Hodgkinson had reported in his session, including:

- Future jobs in Illinois will be in Management, Installation Maintenance/Repairs, Construction, Mining, Top Engineers, Retail Sales and Registered Nurses
- 12% of baby boomers are below the poverty level
- IL has two times the birth rate, which is a positive
- 8 million jobs were lost out of Illinois last year
- The death rate is lower than the national average
- Those with bachelor’s degrees are moving out of Illinois
- 238,000 moved out of Illinois with Bachelors Degrees last year
- The crime in Chicago is a disadvantage for those wanting to move
- In the US there are 6 million pregnancy in one year with 4 million birth, 1 million miscarriages, 1 million abortions, 33% unmarried parents and 12% teens in heavy poverty
- Baby Boomers, the birth rate and pregnancies effect the redistricting through census. Illinois did loose a seat where Texas, California and Florida gained a Seat and Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia gained more than one seat.
- The aging population changes the voting force, i.e., those that are of an older age may wonder why you want to raise taxes to help send people through school
- New York and Pennsylvania had the largest suicide rate
- Illinois is the 14 states with 42% of 19 year olds to finish high school and admitted to a four-year degree college; community colleges are not included in this figure
- States with more children will reflect poor; states mostly with adults will reflect rich
- Illinois is second worse State for students to leave the state to go to college
- Illinois is the only state in the heartland with the highest population of 65 and older
- There are 281 million in the US that are 65 and older; half that population lives in 10 states within the US.

Fauver commented that the workforce is getting older; addressing those needs is a growing concern.

Outcome of Ex-Offenders Grant – Fauver informed that the area did not receive the grant.

Action Item: Amendment to VCWIB Bylaws – Fauver informed that included in the meeting packet is a Bylaw revision has to do with the requirement from the IRS for the 501 c 3 status. Motion to approve the Amendment to the VCWIB Bylaws as presented

was made by Chuck Brooks, seconded by Greg Hillerary. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

Action Item: Letter of Support - Motion to approve the letter of support for Job Corps as presented was made by John Alexander, seconded by Aletha Alexander. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

Fauver informed that there has been some difficulty in having quorums in committees. If a committee does not have a quorum and there is an action item that needs to be acted on, the Executive Committee will act on those issues. The committee members will be notified if they want to come to the Executive Committee.

Fauver informed that funds would be received from Area 7 for the dislocated worker program. Hensgen informed that LWIA 18 would receive an additional 2,000 to serve the dislocated worker program. The modification to the 5-year plan will be submitted by December 15, 2006

Accountability Committee

Brooks stated that the financial information was reviewed from JTP and was in order. Brooks complimented Laura Ligler for the job she was doing with the financial information.

Brooks reported that the Board finds out late in the year about the Technical Assistance Grant. The committee discussed preparing ideas in late summer, and have lined out by August or September so the proposals are ready to go when the grant becomes available. The committee discussed the TAT Grant. The Committee is looking at 2 different grant proposals. One of the projects coming out the Challenge Committees is the WorkKeys Assessment Testing for Freshman and Sophomores. Brooks explained the WorkKeys Assessment, the 3 different tests: math, reading and locating information and the cost of providing the tests.

Fauver informed there are several manufacturing industries locally that use the WorkKeys Assessment already.

The other grant proposal would be to help fund the Vermilion Advantage Career Lab.

Action Item: Approval of TAT Grant Submission: Motion to approve TAT Grant Submission up to \$27,000 for the WorkKeys Assessment Test and \$12,000 for the Vermilion Advantage Career Lab was made by Peggy Kunze, seconded by Greg Hilleary. Approved by voice vote. Dave Kietzman and Renee' Poke abstained. Motion carried.

Youth Council -

Action Item: Youth Membership – Motion to approve Tammie Forthenberry as a new Youth Council Member was made by Chuck Brooks, seconded by Lisa Fudge. Approved by voice vote; Greg Hilleary abstained. Motion carried.

JTP Presentation of Youth Program – Brian Hensgen presented earlier in the meeting. **Action Item:** Approval of Year Round WIA Title I Youth Program RFP – Fauver reviewed changes made to the Youth RFP this year. Motion to approve Youth Program RFP as presented was made by John Alexander, seconded by Jonathan Jett. Approved by a voice vote, Dave Kietzmann, and Renee’ Poke abstained. Motion carried.

Workforce Development

Tom Szott was not present; Fauver reported. Motion to accept the in-kind contributions as presented in the meeting packet from the Hoopston Multi-Agency and Debt Management and Credit Education was made by Dave Kietzmann, seconded by Mike Dodge. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

The Customer Service Records were included in the meeting packet. Brooks stated the numbers under “other” services exceed everything on the page, Brooks would like a breakdown of what “other” services is.

Fauver suggested that the Partners better define the sign in sheet.

Board Development – Lisa Fudge reported that the committee would be meeting in December.

Other Business

One Stop Partners Report (Opportunity)

DHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), Aletha Alexander –

A. Alexander is the local DRS Office Administrator for Champaign, the U of I and Danville and sits on two Workforce Investment Boards.

The local office in Danville is located at 407 N. Franklin. There are 51 State offices throughout Illinois with the Administrative offices located in Springfield and Chicago. By 2008 100% of DRS Rehab Counselors will hold master degrees.

DRS assist people with disabilities, to find, maintain, and retrain for advancement and benefits for employment. DRS customers are those with disabilities that with out the service are not able to find employment on their own or maintain employment. This past year Division of Rehabilitation Services has impacted over 238,000 with disabilities. DRS is the state leading agency providing services to those with disabilities to and helping them to achieve self sufficiency and to live independently.

The Staff works very closely with state, regional and local employers offering individualized placement services to bring together employer and customer for the best job match. DHS-DRS provides individualized services and assesses unique skills and abilities, limitations and interests and co-develop a service plan for employment, this is different than other state agencies.

The major DHS Programs include: Vocational Rehabilitation, Home Service, Educational Services and Independent Living.

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program is been in existence nationally since the Soldiers Rehab Act of 1918 designed to help those individuals with disabilities to obtain employment and a living wage. It is funded through the U.S. Dept of Education, Rehab Service Administrator and state funds appropriated by the Governor and General Assembly. RXA oversees regulates VR Program consistent with the 1973 Rehab Act. Placement Services are free of charge; individuals referred to employers are prescreened and job ready. DRS have 44,000 VR customers and helped 9,250 individuals last year become competitively employed within the community; historically individuals with disabilities have been housed in workshops services. Currently the local DRS office is serving 283 VR Customers and 135 home service customers. The largest disability groups served by the local office are individuals with orthopedic impairment, mental retardation, mental illness, and learning disabilities.

DRS contracts with a local community rehab facility known as Workforce Enterprises, which provide placement services, supportive employment services and job coaching to some most difficult to place customers. VR Services that a counselor would provide include assessment evaluation, counseling and guidance, physical restoration and medical, education and training, placement and post employment services.

The VR program has an eligible criteria and order of selection process.

Eligibility for VR Services include: a physical or mental impairment, and the individuals physical or mental impairment constitutes a substantial impediment to employment and the individual request VR Services to prepare for secure and retain employment, the individual is presumed to benefit from VR Services in turn of an employment outcome. An individual receiving SSI or SSDI is presumed to be eligible because the individual has been determined under the SSI or SSDI evaluation to have a significant disability.

The Order of Selection establishes a priority of distribution of services DRS operates under the code of federal regs., which each state to establish the order of selection. This past fiscal year DHS became concerned with funding and how to provide services to individuals with the most need. Those that are most significantly disabled are served first to stretch the funding. Feb 14, 2005 to March 14, 2005 the agency instituted a delayed services status during this time could only serve *most significant disabled* or two functional limitations required multiple VR services all others were given and opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. DRS is still accepting referrals. Although there is a new Order of Selection, referrals are still being taken by the local DRS offices.

There are four categories in the Order of Selection, which are:

Most Significant disabled are those found eligible that have disabilities resulting in serious limitations to 3 or more functional capacities and requires 2 or more substantial services in addition to the routine services of Information & Referral and Guidance & Counseling,

Very Significant disabled are those individuals found eligible that have disabilities resulting in serious limitations to 2 or more functional capacities and requires 1 substantial service in addition to the routine services of Information & Referral and Guidance & Counseling,

Significant disability are those individuals found to be eligible whose disability results in serious limitation to 1 function capacity and requires 1 substantial service provided over and extended period of time.

All Other individuals with disabilities.

To receive services from DRS, and individual with a disability must:

1. Be found eligible using the eligibility criteria
2. Meet the Order of Selection of being an individual with a Most or Very Significant disability

Other services DRS offers are the Bureau of Blind Service for those that are blind or visually impaired and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. Special services for those that are Spanish or Latino.

There is the Home Service Program, if anyone is interested A. Alexander would be willing to meet with you or you can review the DRS website. A. Alexander provided updated material on the back table regarding the DRS Services.

Brooks questioned if living wage is that a certain wage. A. Alexander responded that it is the percent of the poverty level at this point the DRS goal is \$8.50 per hour or more.

Private Business Report (Opportunity) - None

Public Comments – Fauver announced Renee' Poke would be resigning her position Januray 6, 2006. Fauver thanked her for the service to the Board and wished her well in the future.

Poke read briefly from her letter to Mr. Boyer.

Fudge announced the Food Drive for the Food Pantry will be the week of November 27-December 4th; December 3rd and 4th the truck will be at the Town Center County Market.

Next Meeting - Thursday, January 26, 2006 time will be determined by the Board Development Committee.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made by Chuck Brooks, seconded by Phearn Butler. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.