

NWCEP, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 - 10:30 a.m.

CEP, Inc. Office – Ashland, WI

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

Rollie Thums
Donna Williamson
Lew Martin
Dee Gokee-Rindal
Doug Finn
Dave Willingham
Bill Kacvinsky

Excused:

Bob Kopisch
Shawn Miller
Joe Pinardi
George Sears
Steve Sather
Hal Helwig
Jeff Muse

Others:

Brad Gingras
Jenny Baron

Roll Call/Public Meeting Notice Report

Bill Kacvinsky, CEP Board Chairman called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was not present. It was reported that the public meeting notice was published in two class a newspapers and aired on area radio stations in the WDA.

Approval of the 12/18/13 Meeting Minutes

The Board ruled to table the approval of 12/18/13 Meeting Minutes until next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Mission Statement

Brad noted the mission of CEP is to strengthen the economy by providing effective and efficient workforce development services to businesses and job seekers. Brad discussed a mission story involving the Affordable Care Act. Brad has been helping individuals get enrolled. He noted that he helped a local small business man who had pre-existing conditions. Based off what he was to enroll in, he would now be saving over \$700 per month. The savings would enable him to spend more to help the economy.

Management Report:

Job Center Counts Report

Jenny Baron distributed an updated Job Center Customer counts report that shows how many people are utilizing services in our area Job Centers. She distributed an updated report on the totals for 2013. The total number of customers using the Job Centers between January 2013 through December 2013 is 17,058 people. Jenny noted that she didn't have the Ladysmith numbers yet due to the staff person there being out on medical leave. Brad noted that Ashland staff have been covering Ladysmith during this medical leave.

Social Media Reporting Discussion

Brad noted that we broke down December and January separately for Facebook activity. There are large numbers for Ashland CEP's Facebook page. The other pages are a demographic view of the individual Job Centers breaking it down by gender, age group, etc.

Dislocated Worker Report

Brad discussed the report in the packet with one additional closure which is Slumberland Furniture which was bought out by Vacation Land Furnishings. Brad reported that the Oasis Cafe in Ashland closed. Super One Grocery store in Hurley is closing affecting 40 workers. Last week, CEP held two rapid response meetings to inform workers of our services. It was noted that the Bridal Shop in Ashland is also closing. Brad noted that the Elbow room, Sammie's Pizza, Papa Don's restaurant and the Androy Hotel in Superior are closing. Brad noted that the Dairy Queen in Ashland is also closing

On the Job Training Update

Brad discussed the WIA OJT report. There are currently 26 contracts on the report with an average wage of \$13.00 per hour, with 300 hours per contract and the average cost per contract is just shy of \$2,000. There is a considerable emphasis to do more OJTs in Douglas County, along with the other counties in our region along with Tribal OJTs.

Brad discussed the H1B Healthcare OJT program with three different workforce areas, which includes our area NWWIB, Inc. There are currently 166 contracts on the report, with an hourly wage of \$21.00 per hour, with average hours at 427, and each contract averages at \$5,000

Grants Update

The Navigator Affordable Care Act grant/program was discussed. Brad noted that CEP is moving full steam ahead. In February, in just our area, CEP provides daily public presentations and meets with individuals to help enroll. Brad is targeting smaller communities to get more people educated about the program. Our metrics have changed. Initially, the grant said we'd impact 110,000 people. Now we're being graded on how many presentations we do and enrolling people. A suggestion was made to have a Navigator at our next CEP Board meeting to discuss how it's going.

The Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA) grant was discussed. There were two different grants submitted. The first one is for \$85,000 to expand the current healthcare alliance to identify healthcare needs in our area to put resources towards that. That was submitted in mid January. A second HRSA grant was submitted for \$300,000 to provide scholarships for nurses who are minorities and economically disadvantaged.

The Shokapee Grant was submitted to the Mystic Lake Tribe. They funded Crex a couple years ago with a \$20,000 grant. CEP requested \$97,000 to finish the Crex mess hall.

Brad submitted a grant to waste management for \$24,000 for Crex and two more grants for Crex to Northern State Bank and the SC Johnson Foundation to assist the Crex Camp.

TAACCCT Grant Update

Brad noted that the Tech College system received a large grant to assist with a number of training initiatives. WITC came to CEP to see if we can hire and supervise a position. CEP may receive funds to hire a new staff member to connect individuals to careers in manufacturing and WITC programming for

manufacturing careers and to help families with admissions. Brad noted that we could tie this into our OJT program.

Ready to Work Curriculum

Brad gave a brief update on two CEP staff. He noted that Tasha Hagberg, CEP Industry Specialist and Carrie Miller, Focused Initiatives Manager are putting together a Ready to Work curriculum to bring into schools. Tasha is running a pilot in Ashland and Spooner middle schools. She is teaching them six different modules that explain what students need to have to be ready for the workforce. A suggestion was made to hit juniors and seniors since those are the students getting the part time jobs. It was noted that it may be too late to instill those skills for students at that age. It was noted that many people get these skills from their first employer. It was suggested to educate employers on how to teach their employees soft skills.

Skills WI - Salesforce

Brad distributed a handout on Salesforce which is an internet based job matching system. The recent report showed that we added 60 new participants and 30 new job orders. He noted that 71 hires have taken place since January 15, 2013. We are one of the leading workforce area in the state with utilizing the system.

DWD MOU Update

Brad noted that this is a NWWIB issue, but the MOU is a formality to make sure there is proper communication taking place between WWDA, DWD, and the 11 Workforce areas.

State & Federal Update

Brad reported that the Council on Workforce Investment has gone through a variety of changes over the years. They are currently looking for membership from the northern area who is a local elected official. These would be monthly meetings in Madison. Brad asked members if they know anyone who would be interested.

Brad discussed the Federal Appropriations budget and distributed an update. Brad noted that things are looking better for employment and training and he's pleased to say that on July 1st we'll see a small increase in our budgets.

Other Business

None

Next Meeting Date & Location

The next CEP Board of Directors meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, or at the call of the Chairman.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Rollie Thums to adjourn at 12:00 p.m. Seconded by Lew Martin. Vote taken, carried unanimously.

