

REGION 7
Regional Workforce Development Board
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 25, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Conference Room D
Cedar Valley IowaWorks
3420 University Ave.
Waterloo, IA

Conference Call Number: (866) 685-1580 Code: 4772635870

Board Website
<https://www.iowawdb.gov>

Present

Dustin Brocka	Jamie Kramer
Deborah Collett	Linda Laylin
Jim Denholm	Lisa Lorenzen
Chris Hannan	Clayton Ohrt
Debra Hodges-Harmon	Chris Parker
Mike Howell	Amber Youngblut
Sandy Jensen	

1. Welcome

Meeting started at 4:02 pm, called to order by Deborah Collett. Jim Denholm introduced himself, and all present introduced themselves, and all on phone introduced.

2. Review and Act

2.1 April 25, 2019 Agenda and February 28, 2019 Minutes

Approved agenda and reviewed minutes. February board minutes amended to include Lisa Lorenzen added to the list of people who attended. She called in late and was not recognized. Will also change the spelling Janis Cramer, as board secretary did not type her name correctly.

Motion to approve by Linda Laylin, and 2nd by Sandy.

3. System Report

Business closing OCWEN in August or September. Lay off will start in May with 5 people, and then 100 at a time until all have been dismissed.

We have heard that three stores closing in area for Family Dollar, and then later heard that may change so it's rather all up in the air. Children's Place at Crossroad's Mall closing. Greenlee Lumber and Jesup Food Center gave notice since report went out.

Disaster Report- Butler County opted out, Bremer County opted in for disaster relief funds. Department of Labor has not issued funding, but FEMA money is starting to come in. Black Hawk County was eligible for state disaster not federal disaster.

Disability Employment Initiative grant has closed up. This is the final notice that grant closure took affect at the end of March.

Finally, working on Transportation Sector Partnership, in June working with 25 employers to start a partnership meeting will be held together, and topics will be split up and talked about together.

Jim asked what types of jobs are still left at OCWEN. Most are customer services, or Mortgage customer service. Once they start to lay off folks, IWD will come in and do an on site OCWEN job fair and open up Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits. Date of closing is flexible between August and September of 2019. 100 people will be laid off at a time starting in July. All folks will all be offered a severance package. Most OCWEN folks usually go back to work and go to school at the same time.

4. Sub Committee Reports

Sandy shared that adult education (adult ed.) and literacy, shared that WIOA includes adult education and literacy as people don't sometimes consider them at a part of the larger picture. Sandy explained what they do at the center (Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center). The center serves adult students; such as people who are working to finish their diploma and immigrants needing to learn English.

The WIOA Title II Adult Education and Literacy at Hawkeye Community College provides programs in I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training) which is a WIOA mandated IET (Integrated Education and Training). I-BEST is a nationally recognized model for providing IET. The two I-BEST models provided on campus include CNA and CNC training. There will be a graduation ceremony May 15, from 10-11 am at the ALC. In fall 2019 a new I-BEST pilot program will start; Hospitality Management. Adults will learn Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Google while they are learning English.

IELCE (Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education) programming was piloted in the 2017/2018 school year, and has continued for the 2018/2019 school year. This new IET program

allows English Language Learners with the appropriated English ability to have the opportunity to learn digital literacy skills as well.

Increased Partnership in IowaWORKS has continued with the addition of Coretha Montouth teaching customer service at the center, and it has been a great offering for the center and the adults.

All time enrollment high for ELL for the Spring Semester at 805 people. 600 were enrolled last year. Spring semester will conclude May 23, 2019. ELL Next Step Ceremony will be held May 23, 2019 from 10:30-11:30 am at the ALC. Summer classes will be offered to current students only. That schedule is TBD. Fall semester registration begins May 28, and will be on-going every Tuesday and Thursday from 9-7 and Wednesday from 9-4.

There is an 84% retention rate for students in the high school completion program. Currently have 413 enrolled. Spring semester concludes June 13, 2019.

Graduation for High School equivalency will be June 27 2019 from 7-8 pm. At HCC campus, Tama Hall.

Family Literacy Program is open to all students enrolled in ELL or HSC classes. Program encourages parents to complete their own education, while embracing the role of being their child's 1st teacher. The goal of the program is to strengthen multiple generations with literacy, language, and work skills for a stronger Cedar Valley. We are the only remaining program in the state to help educate families for the role of families teaching their children. Almost 300 families are enrolled, starting from 15 families.

Title III

(Andy Trower not present)

Mike Howell and Vocational Rehabilitation Title IV

115 successfully placed people for the fiscal year. Iowa has tied for #1 in the state. Counselors and all involved in office are a reason for the successful placements and the numbers being reported. 57% rehabilitation rate. Federal cutoff is 55%. Will be starting a job club for IVRS people, and will start with it on a monthly basis for a little extra support and push. Used to start with workforce job club that lasted a week, and not a lot of successful participation so hopefully once a month will engage people to get the right kind of help. Part of WIOA for IVRS is to offer pre-employment services for high school students with a 504 or IEP plan to be able to develop a vocational plan once they graduate HS. Will be offering a summer schedule for those students. 12 attended the last job club, with 20 signed up. Mike has shared that he has been with IVRS since 1995. Also confirmed that IVRS used to be at the MHI in Independence.

Youth Report

Chris shared that the college applied for the DOL Youth Build Grant, but with the unemployment rate so low, we lost points with that. Last 3 or 4 months asking for confirmation, Youth standing committee for funding to get the same project off the ground as a scaled down version of the Youth Build Grant, and be able to do so without the use of federal dollars. All agencies who

voiced support have been contacted regarding possible commitment. The plan is to apply for local grant money and other resources until HCC can apply again in a few years' time.

Disability Access

Keeping a committee together to keep services with people with disabilities active and keep services improving where needed.

Most of it has been accomplished, still need to get some braille signs, and the buttons pushed to get doors open, need to have paint touched up as is faded.

Bathroom is not quite accessible, and doorway is off by a couple inches.

Parking lot is picky about the slope towards the building, and fix asphalt to improve. The slope is off in the parking lot.

Continue to look to integrate services with workforce and IVRS to make sure all services are accessible to all people with disabilities.

5. Review and Act Items

5.1

Local service plan modifications

Specifically we have to identify the counties that we will service and ID how we are going to serve folks who live outside of the counties and if they are requesting funding, how we will notify accepted or denied decisions.

Also ID how we will test for folks outside of area for proficiency testing. Issues on #9 for an acronym confusion so one acronym was deleted.

Motion to approve Local Plan Modifications by Deborah Collett, Lisa Lorenzen made a motion, Linda 2nd. Motion approved to make the modifications.

5.2

Chair and vice chair elections. By-law is required yearly. Time to do this at this meeting.

Deborah Collett suggested that chairmanship should rotate among all members, Linda shared as vice chair that she agrees that it should rotate to all members. Dustin Brocka suggested that the members can nominate and can all be discussed at the June meeting. Linda proposes that we wait for the June meeting and see if there are proposals for the chair and vice chair.

Chris will send out an e-mail for who all is eligible to be elected for the chair and vice chair.

6. Informational items

Local college access network

- a. Started this year, four or five year grant app for higher education attainment. Could be anything after HS to doctorate. Short term or long term, it is just college access. This is something that we thought could help with income inequality is college access. Tina Engstrom is handling this grant. There are things going on within workforce worlds that

are trying to solve issues. This grant is being housed at the job center and being integrated into the workforce system.

7. Upcoming RWDB Meetings (All hosted at Cedar Valley IowaWORKS at 4 pm unless noted).

7.1 June 27, 2019

7.2 September 26, 2019

7.3 November 21, 2019

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Deborah Collett, 2nd by Linda Laylin. Adjourned at 4:46 pm.