

REGION 7
Regional Workforce Development Board
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 28, 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
Chris Hannan
Andy Trower
Deborah Collett
Debra Hodges-Harmon
Mike Howell
Sandy Jensen
Jamie Kramer

Linda Laylin
Richard McBurney
Clayton Ohrt
Karla Organist
Chris Parker
Amber Youngblut

Present by Phone...

Jamie Kramer
Janis Cramer
Jeff Frost

Kochell Weber-Ricklefs
Lisa Lorenzen

1. Welcome

Meeting Commenced at 4:06 pm.

2. Review and Act

2.1 February 28, 2019 and November 15, 2018 minutes

Notes from November-

Notes Correction: Country View, 29 laid off currently. 17 on layoff status- total # is 13 people laid off. Motion to approve From Deborah Collett. Karla Organist moved, Debra Hodges-Harmon 2nd. Minutes approved.

3. System Report

Copy of system report included in handout, Chris began with business closings. Hallmark Store in Waterloo mall closing. Doctor office in Cedar Falls closed, Buffalo Weaver closed, Old Chicago closed. Payless Shoes is closing. Becks closed as well. We might see an official closure of OCWEN, just got word this morning that they might officially be closing the whole business. We are still serving OCWEN folks in the office. The numbers could go up, and we may file new trade petition. Disability Employment Initiative Round 6 closing by the end March. We are working with community to start a transportations sector board; nothing officially has come together yet.

Sandy Jensen shared that the Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center is serving adult students; such as people who are working to finish diploma and immigrants needing to learn English. We are fully moved into the new center. Last year all time high of English Language Learners (ELL) learners enrolled at 640. Over 805 ELL students enrolled. 413 people working on earning their diploma. Clayton Ohrt asked Sandy about length of learning for ELL learner. Sandy explained there are eight levels of ELL classes. It all depends on what they know, and how quick they learn. For example, there are lots of people around the world who have never been to school, so there is a lot of starting from scratch to learn English, reading, writing, etc. Others who had advanced degrees in their home country but come here to learn more, and are in need of some language help. How much English you know and how much education you have had in your home country helps to know how long you may be taking classes to learn English. Over 90% of ELL learners are already working, but are under-employed. For example people who were trained as doctors in their home country are here cutting meat at Tyson's.

Andy shared next. Andy commented that the Future Ready Iowa Summit continues to be supported and plans move forward. There have been five strategies identified, and 'Barriers to Employment' is what the office will be working on. There is a new summit planned. Regular Apprenticeships are still searching for people to fill positions. Trucking with RUAN are looking for Vets, and Home Based Iowa is a program that is still being supported. Sector boards and the health care sector board are working for business outreach. There is now a position posted for a new DVOP (Disabled Veteran Outreach). Any disabled is eligible to apply. The vet has to have a service connected disability. It was posted yesterday (02/28) and will be posted for ten days. It can be found at the DAS website for state jobs, and search for DVOP. Over 30 have applied since opening up the job. "Other barriers to employment," have been identified at the Membership Screen inside Iowa WORKS welcoming area computers; to be able to help them get employed faster-in IOWA WORKS to help identify the barriers and have the ability and knowledge to help them get the job quicker.

Clayton Ohrt asked about apprenticeships with OSHA and safety requirements with apprenticeships for younger workers, and if there is an age exemption.

Amber Youngblut commented that there is an age range and recently read the regulations very closely, as an example there are machines etc. that need to be the read regulations for what

they are doing and what the exemption is, more on a case by case basis. Still a great opportunity to get someone interested in the field.

Lastly, Future Ready Iowa is attempting to fill the middle skills gap and this is just another tool to fill the gap.

Mike Howell shared that Local IVRS offices serve seven counties, 178 high school students, 212- four year college students, and 102 community college students being served. 47% are involved in some type of education, not counting On the Job Training. Job placements from OJT (fiscal year) are at 82 (Waterloo is #2 in the state). Rehabilitation rate is at 57%. Of all people who come in and apply for services, and work through to employment from what was initially written as the employment goal. As a member of the disability access committee, he thought the purpose would be to identify accessibility of workforce center, and then the committee would have phased out. They now have other ideas for the committee to keep going. The committee will review to see if people are still interested in coming and attending.

An integration self-assessment was utilized to see how well the core partners are doing with integration. Six areas were identified to continue to increase collaboration and improvement. Mike personally feels that between the center and IVRS, and Department of the Blind, and Kochell- people with disabilities are getting adequate services, but there are ways to always improve. Linda Laylin asked about the 82 placements and how that compares with previous years. Mike said he is usually pretty close to hitting goal. Thinks he is down a bit from where he wants to be at almost half way through the year, but still time to meet that.

4. WIOA Title 1 and 3 Performance

Chris shared that the graphs in back of book handout are the targets that were hit for the year. Region 7 youth is 60% in chart, and was written in error. It is actually truly 71.4% which is better than what was reported. All performance marks were hit in Waterloo.

5. Realignment

The Iowa map in color was identified from an individual from each identified community college and each workforce office- all partners involved put a map together from the Iowa workforce offices and colleges. Small working group slowly moved it from 2 offices to six offices. The time table is now a 20 day waiting period for locally elected officials starting from the 18th of February. After the waiting period, this map will then start to be put into motion. If no objections, the map and the plan will move forward as is.

Richard inquired on currently how many regions are within what is highlighted. Chris replied that all will get dissolved from county supervisors and business boards will all be dissolved, and brought back in for a new board, technically speaking. Deborah Collett commented about the strategic plan and the RWIB meeting and how the timing will work with this new regional map. Chris explained that local plans and assessments will still need to be prepared no matter what happens on the federal level. Possible implementation dates are... July 1, Oct 1, January 1. Will be farmed out, and broken up, and hired out by a firm to reorganize.

6. AEL Updates

Sandy Jensen has officially announced retirement effective October 4th, 2019.

Andy shared that the disability access committee is there to help increase services to those that have disabilities.

7. Sub Committee Reports

7.1 Operations

Deborah Hodges-Harmon visited with Ron Steele regarding Waterloo being labeled the worst place for African American's to live and work in. Check in on KWWL on 7 pm on the 13th of March to check the next edition. There was a panel of local people in the Cedar Valley that was interviewed. Addressing the issue and moving onward from the stats from this report that came out in 2018 but stats were from 2012. Identifying the issues that it addresses and how the Cedar Valley has addressed the issues that were listed.

A career fair is being held March 5 at Heartland Acres in Independence from 4-6 or 7 pm. People will be moving forward to hire census workers soon.

IowaWORKS may be pulling together a hiring event soon due to all the business closures. Have hosted a lot of employers in office for small hiring events, but may make it bigger to include all the (soon to be) displaced workers.

7.2 Youth

The mayor's summer Youth Employment will be the 3rd year planned and collaborated. All schools in Waterloo and Iowa Works will be participating.

7.3 Disability Access

Future ready Iowa summit- Urban Alliance have had two separate groups who have asked to bring the program back here, and bring both groups together to visit and be held here to help with the community for re-entry in offenders and another group that assists people with disabilities. This summit is happening in March.

8. Review and Act Items

No items need action at this time.

9. Informational items

9.1 Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center

Sandy has invited everyone to attend the next board meeting at the Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center. 120 Jefferson St. Waterloo. Parking right in front of building should be fine. Sandy will share and pass on parking map. Meeting room will be located inside the Martin Luther King Jr. meeting hall.

9.2 Trucking with the Troops

Trucking with troops still has some spots left.

9.3 Local College Access Network (LCAN)

(No flier) The college (HCC) applied for an LCAN (Local College Access Network grant). This grant will aid for community guidance to avoid and eliminate college barriers. Meeting in neutral fashion to help brainstorm for what are barriers for students. Visiting with deans and directors from UNI to lead and assist. The directors from community foundations will meet in late March or early April and from there develop working groups to identify barriers.

9.4 Transportation Open House

Saturday RTTC on HCC campus is having a community event, to help promote trucking with the troops. 9 am –noon on March 2nd. Looking at the age of local truckers, and entice the younger crowds to get into trucking. 97% of Iowa truckers are older white men. Looking to hire more.

10.

Upcoming Meetings...

10.1 April 25, 2019 **will be hosted at the Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center, 120 Jefferson St. Waterloo.**

10.2 June 27, 2019

10.3 September 26, 2019

10.4 November 21, 2019

11.

Deborah Collett motioned to adjourn, Richard McBurnery to 2nd. All in favor. RWDB Meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.