

**Regional Workforce Development Board/
Chief Elected Officials Meeting
February 21, 2019**

RWDB Present: Kelly Hansen, Sandra Leake, JR Ackley, Mary Ott, Jennifer Breister, Terri Swanson, Hunter Callanan, Jim Erb and Nick Foley

CEO Present: Corey Eberling, Tim Latham, Mike Stensrud
Two new CEO Board members: Linda Tjaden and Barbara Francis

Staff: Patti Hanson; Regional Director, Terry Schumacher, Dean Continuing Ed.-NIACC and Angie Bathke, VR

Guests: Peter Bieber, DVOP and Melinda McGregor, IWD

1.0 Welcome

Kelly welcomed everyone and thanked them for their continued service on both Boards.

2.0 RWDB & CEO Approval of February 21, 2019 agenda and November 1, 2018 meeting minutes:

RWDB: Motion: Ott 2nd: Leake Vote: Unanimous

CEO: Motion: Latham 2nd: Stensrud Vote: Unanimous

Patti announced the two new members for CEO Board - Barbara Francis and Linda Tjaden.

3.0 Title 1 Updates - Patti

3.1 Regional Realignment Update - Patti

3.1.1 Realignment Project Plan - two maps included in the packet that were presented to the State Board for the Realignment Option and another map was added that showed current region structure to have a comparison. Our positioning didn't change in either of the maps. Option B was the one that was approved. They stated at the Board Meeting that implementation would be January 1st, 2020.

3.1.2 Realignment Maps - the steps they are going to take to make that all happen. No time lines on any of that but will

create a new CEO Board so that is all in line for January 1st. More details will be sent out with details of dates. Title 1 - they have decided that they will give us six months of allocated funds for next program year to get us through that December 31st. Do plan on trying for the RFP; concern - will be competing with bigger regions. Our concern is with these bigger regions is that we could lose our local college representation and would lose our local representation at the Board level. Have not heard what that structure is going to look like, but very important if you have an opportunity, we need people to speak for our counties here. Other concern is that local service and outreach in rural counties will be impacted; 1. will be operating with less money; 2. if the RFP comes out of Waterloo, will they focus on Winnebago County? The decision on RFP and future provider will be new CEO Board and have not heard what the structure of that Board will look like, but it's very important to be that local voice as we are the ones that can represent our local people here.

Corey - in this process, the CEOs were supposed to be involved and try to help shape and they have not been involved in the process. On Friday, Director Townsend tried to show that they were, but since he has been on the CEO, several meetings that could have participated in, there has not been a single meeting. There was a motion actually in the meeting Friday for any closing of facility sites here would have to go before the State Board, that was defeated, so very worried that they are looking at downsizing different facilities. We have very low unemployment in our area, but we still have needs here and concerned that we may be put in a group that do not have the needs like we do and going to get left out. The appeals process was done late, so they're only giving us 20 business days. They meet next month and this window has basically been closed. They were trying to force a vote last fall too and luckily there were a couple of legislators that slowed the process down as they wanted to push this through immediately. So we are losing our local voice, so anyone on the two Boards to help provide some more input, call the Governor's Office as this is very important. It was the rural areas that put the

Governor in office; not the Des Moines, Dubuque, Iowa City areas. The Governor needs to hear our voice, so encouraged everyone to do that. People that need job skills need to be able to do this locally instead of having to travel so far, especially those that are unemployed, funds are already limited for travel.

3.2 Title I Programs Report - Patti - in the past, have not utilized all of our funds and could go out to the counties and do outreach. There are now people waiting for our services as we have utilized the funds for other counties, not just waiting for them to come into the office here. The outreach that we have done with other partners has been very important and concerns that this could be changed, Jim Erb - the business sector plays a major role. Patti also mentioned that Jim will stay on the Board. Patti thinks the staff positions here will be ok and will pass any information received regarding local boards and new boards and very complicated process and was stated they were going to do this in 18-24 months and now it's going to be in 9 months. WIOA legislation states that there has to be 1 One Stop in every Region. - Corey - concerns that there could be more cuts. His question - part of the legislation said that the CEOs were to have been involved and when that was brought up in the meeting on Friday, Director Townsend said CEOs were involved in this and that was sent out, but what they received was not input on what we wanted to have done. What would you as a board like to have accomplished merging of regions, etc.? We as CEOs are going to have to determine to appeal this decision too for Regions and discuss this further. Patti - concerned that the top half of the state has two Regions and bottom has four.

Patti - Young Adult Program - very successful; outreach efforts have worked. Adults and DWs (Dislocated Workers) haven't had a big response event in our area but have had a lot of small closures, so working with those Dislocated Workers to help them find other employment. Shopko and Payless closing. They have put in a request for more DL worker funds because of that; waiting to hear about that request. Education Training Provider List - most likely not approve new ones as we can't get them into the data base; providers were responsible to get into the data base; LaJames was one of the first ones; NIACC and BV.

Heather Stubbe resigned her position effective 2/20/19 and will not be rehiring for that position. We are down two people from a year ago. She also did the Ticket to Work Program and will be working to cover that as well and have a great partnership with VR and generates revenue.

4.0 Title II Updates - Sandra

Sandra added another map related to realignment showing Federal funding for education and literacy and how that is split up. The individual community colleges will continue to have their own education and literacy programs in the second year of the grant program. After the third year, it's going to come up for bid and could affect the funding. It will come up for bid in the middle of 2020. State funding will go to individual colleges; Federal depends on RFP. Also hoping to add another basic computer class in March.

4.1 Title II Enrollment Numbers & National Coalition on Adult Basic Education Conference April 1-3, 2019

4.2 Upcoming Short-Term Classes: Integrated Welding March 26-April 25 and Basic Computer Class planned for March

5.0 Title III Updates - Nick

Nick - introduced Peter Bieber, DVOP - Disabled Veteran Outreach Program - works with Veterans that have significant barriers to employment. Peter started in late October and Peter talked about his background and shared a success story. Peter started with 32 cases and currently has 54.

5.1 Title III Report - Nick - getting ready for the new system launch; right now it is Iowa Jobs and will be Iowa Works - more user friendly and accessible - May 6th is launch date. Home Based Iowa - encouraging all of the counties to sign up; still have three that need to sign up, Winnebago, Worth and Cero Gordo. Registered Apprenticeships – discussion - SeaBees, position still available at Grain Millers.

6.0 Title IV Updates - Mary

6.1 Title IV Programs Report – trying to be more involved with business engagement and Sector Boards. Last year from July 1 - June 30 - 860 business service contacts and from this year, July to

January - 474 business contacts. VR has a great relationship with Melinda McGregor and Patti and they, along with one of our VR staff, go together and meet employers and discuss what their needs are. Ticket to Work - Social Security recipients that go back to work and milestones for reimbursement; VR takes the first milestone and then VR hands it off to IWD and Title 1 and they continue to work with that person to get more and more of the milestone payments. VR has done 60% so far this year in 2019 and last year it was around 40%.

March 13th - Career Fair – Waldorf, VR, IowaWorks and Title 1 involved with that; April 10th – High School Career Fair at NIACC and booths were sold out within four hours and there is a waiting list, June 10th & 11th - VR High School Event at NIACC; working together with entire Center, as well as NIACC and will have hands-on activities that high school students can get involved in with real work experience. This year they will work with Building Trades and could possibly be building a bench and will be able to take the bench home after they build it. There will also be hands on in Advanced Manufacturing and this is one day of the two day event and second day will focus on etiquette and soft skills; such as, learning how to eat properly. The maximum attendance will be 40 students and is free to high school students and may repeat the whole event in another month or so if overwhelming numbers. Last year, a video was done and will do another one at this year's event and hope to show it at RWDB Meeting.

Kelsey Oliver is a new VR Counselor in the Mason City Area Office and will be working with Worth County, as well as Clear Lake High School, Cerro Gordo County and the Center here. Charles City has TAP Program - half employees of the school and half VR.

7.0 Information Items – Kelly

7.1 Youth Standing Committee Minutes of December 10, 2018

7.2 Disability Access Committee Minutes of January 25, 2019

7.3 NIACC Job and Career Fair will be April 10, 2019 from 11 AM-2PM with 64 employers signed up and a wait list of approximately 50 employers

7.4 RWDB/CEO updated Member Matrix

8.0 Next meeting date is May 2, 2019 at Noon

Kelly - reminded attendees that you can always join the meeting by phone.

Business members - please advocate your thoughts regarding this realignment; don't hesitate to go directly to Governor's Office as this is so important to have representation from our area. Please voice your opinion.

Terri Swanson - would it be helpful to have a template letter that would list bullet points for business partners to use. Kelly and Corey can work on this. It was also mentioned that there is only a 20 day window and that started Monday. Mason City could become a Service Access Point. Mike – please talk to supervisors also.

Corey - our region has been very successful; look at our unemployment rate and it starts working with the kids and it's working for us here. Mary - we worked very hard 20 years ago to become a One Stop and very successful and what we have is working; Patti - partners in the building work very well together and go out in the community as transportation is a big issue for many people that are not able to come to Mason City. Essentially, the decision has been made and do not know where to get more information or to guide anyone to get this information. The State Board decided on the two maps. Rural Iowa is not going to have much say and it should matter.

Corey - does the Board like the CEOs to appeal the decision - absolutely; not represented in the public comment and have not had meetings to participate in. Corey - will look into the Appeals process and see about having another meeting and may need to do a conference call.

9.0 Adjournment: 1:10 PM

Motion: Swanson; 2nd: Breister