

**Employer Engagement Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2016**

The Employer Engagement Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Co-Chair Cary Robbins.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

PERU: Dr. Jerry Corcoran, Jim Andreoni, Mary Boogemans, Monte Flack

STERLING: Vicki Carlson, Patty Head, Cary Robbins, Robert White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Burt, Deana Jones, Barbara Majeski, Lisa McCarthy, Dave Mennie, Jim Weed, Theresa Wittenauer, Debbie Clausen, Kevin Lindeman

OTHERS PRESENT: Dianna Schuler, Pam Furlan, Mary Katos, and Joel Torbeck

Business Meeting

Approval of Minutes

Jim Andreoni made the motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Robert White second the motion. Motion carried.

Collaboration Effort of Business and Education

Dianna reminded everyone that one of the things that came out of the IVCC Manufacturing Forum was a coalition of workforce, business and secondary education. That coalition is called the Illinois Workforce Opportunity Readiness Coalition. Their goal is to keep the conversation between the stakeholders on the skills and abilities needed in the immerging workforce. The group will meet again October 12, 2106 from 8am to 10:30am at IVCC. They want to plan a website that will be hosted by the Area Vocational School at LaSalle/Peru High School. They plan to include area chambers and economic development in their efforts.

From the SVCC Manufacturing Forum BEST staff will be included in the manufacturing day planning committee. Dianna will talk with Anita Carney about where the planning is at for this event.

Employer Forums Update

Dianna reported that staff has talked with Lisa McCarthy about conducting a forum in the Carroll and Jo Daviess area. Because of the unique characteristics of the area the idea is to perhaps conduct a general forum rather than sector specific. Dianna and Mary will be meeting with Lisa, along with IDES, on August 9th to discuss a number of things and this will be on the list to further address and plan for.

Job Fair Updates

Dianna reported that BEST is in the process of developing 2 hiring events. She reported that BEST was approached by IDES about the idea of conducting another hiring event in Ogle County. Steps have thus been taken to secure the Oregon Coliseum, with the help of the Mayor of Oregon, and that event will be held September 22 from 10am to 1pm. In talking with IDES representatives the idea of continuing the “brand” of Just Hire One was a good idea for an annual event. Last year’s event was well received and attended so, for the sake of additional space, the mayor had told us he could get us the Coliseum if we ever wanted to hold another event. Dianna shared the invitation with the committee members present in the Sterling Office.

The other hiring event in the works is for a virtual job fair for Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties. Dianna reported that her and Mary explained that a virtual job fair is one that is internet based. That it will be conducted live during a set period of time but also recorded for those that cannot attend the live portion. Mary, Lisa and a representative from Illinois workNet have talked to some length about the logistics of conducting such an event. This event, since it will be the first of its kind using Illinois workNet, will focus on service occupations (healthcare and hospitality mostly) to see how well it works. Target is to have this up and running sometime in October. If it goes well, the programmers at Illinois workNet would like to be able to offer their website to other workforce areas for such hiring events.

Workforce Intelligence Summit

Dianna reported that this committee, comprised of 5 Career Advisors and herself, are focusing on compiling information on healthcare for use with future customers. Such information includes what the working conditions are like, what are the career pathways (both vertical and lateral) of the occupations within this sector, information will be gathered from those currently working in healthcare, occupational resources such as O’Net Online and past customers. Some of this information will be included in the sector workshops that staff members are also working on. The idea is to use this information to make the workshops as realistic as possible for those seeking to enter a healthcare field to convey the working environment to better prepare individuals prior to entering the field.

Pam also reported that the group is working on identifying trends. Things that might be changing or regulations that might be changing and requiring additional/different types of training. She also informed members that we may be contacting them as well to gather necessary information. Jerry offered Bonnie Campbell as a resource for the healthcare effort. He also said that the area hospitals should be willing to help as well.

Youth Career Pathways Grant

Pam reported that we had applied for this back in May. We had come up with a pilot program with the assistance of the 2 area career centers, IVCC, SVCC, and our 2 adult education programs. The project was designed for out of school youth 16 – 24 that need a credit recovery for their diploma. They would do an orientation to the program, do tours of manufacturing facilities, maybe do a job shadowing, do a bridge program in manufacturing and come out with

some type of credential, do an internship and ultimately get a job. It was designed to be a 12 to 18 month program. We were not awarded the grant, nor was any other workforce area. DCEO plans to restructure the grant and release it again in the fall. We do plan to see what it looks like once it is released again.

In the meantime, we are planning to follow through with our original plan using our regular WIOA funds. We may have to adjust it here and there but we believe we had the support of partners and businesses and will be moving forward.

Fee-for-Service Pilot Program

Dianna reported that this idea came about from 2 of the Melanie Arthur webinars. During the Work Based Learning and Business Services webinars Melanie had mentioned that the higher level HR services that we are able to perform were potential area of income as fee-for services. The higher level services being assistance with writing job descriptions, collecting and screening resumes, arranging interviews, to name a few. We've always done them for free, but WIOA allows us to charge for these now. Dianna continued that she and Mary thought that Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties would be a place to pilot such a fee-for service. Mary stated that many of the businesses in these 2 counties tend to be small and don't always have the HR or legal counsel to keep them up to date on what they need to comply.

Vickie asked if we are going to begin charging in these 2 counties are we going to continue to provide them for free in the other counties. Pam asked the committee what they would think of that. Jim said it would depend on size and how time intensive it would be. Mary said that in the areas of succession planning, workforce planning, and other planning that we are in a position to be a bridge for these smaller companies. She went on to say that it is a way to build our reputation while also bringing the value added services of OJT, work experience, etc., at no cost.

Staff will explore what other areas are doing and draw up some recommendations for the committee to consider at their next meeting.

Other Business

Pam reported that the governor signed the 2016 Post Secondary and Workforce Readiness Act. We will be looking into this some more to see how it may tie into what we are already doing.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business motioned to adjourn was made by Jim Andreoni. Motion was seconded by Dr. Corcoran and carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Dianna Schuler