

**TARGETED POPULATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2016**

The Targeted Population Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Carrie Folken. Roll call was taken.

NAME	PRESENT (Peru)	PRESENT (Sterling)	ABSENT
Fidencio Campos			X
Dan Fitzgerald	X		
Carrie Folken	X		
Vanessa Hoffeditz	X		
Rachelle May			X
Brandon Rumler			X
Teresa Strum		X	

OTHERS PRESENT (Peru): Pam Furlan

OTHERS PRESENT (Sterling): Jo Ann Johnson

Business Meeting

Committee Organization and Logistics

Pam told members that the first meeting of each of the standing committee is more organizational in nature. She said that it appears that the majority of the Targeted Population Committee was agreeable to meet on the third Wednesday of the even numbered months at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting will be April 20, 2016. She stated that the meetings would be held at the BEST, Inc. Office in Peru and the BEST, Inc. Office in Sterling. Members concurred.

Pam informed members that the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires that non-workforce board members serve on each Standing Committee. Pam told members she was going to ask Debra Ragusa with Streator Unlimited to serve on this committee. Members asked about representation from criminal justice and veterans. Pam mentioned that she could contact Bill Pfalzgraf, Director of Court Services in LaSalle County. Teresa commented that she may have an individual representing criminal justice from Dixon that may be interested. Pam asked Teresa to send her the contact information. In regards to Veterans Representation, Pam asked Jo Ann to get the name of the Veteran Representative from Ogle County. Vanessa asked Jo Ann to send her the Veterans contact information so she could check on some possible names of individuals. Another suggestion was asking a parole officer to be part of the committee. Pam asked members to let her know if they thought of any other individuals who would be interested in serving on the Targeted Population Committee.

Review of Committee Responsibilities

Pam then reviewed the list of Committee Responsibilities that were attached to the meeting materials. The first responsibility, Pam said, is address the hiring needs of individuals with disabilities, veterans, ex-offenders, and other populations facing special challenges for employment. Pam asked members if there were additional populations that should be included. Such as, Pam said, dropouts was not included on the original list and asked members if they should be included as a targeted population. Vanessa asked if there was any data substantiating the challenges that dropouts face. Dan asked if dropouts were eligible for the BEST, Inc. Youth Program. Carrie replied that they would be eligible up to the age of 24. Members agreed that dropouts face challenges and Pam suggested that we might want to develop some strategies for working with the dropout population. Dan asked if the WIOA defines the population. Pam informed members that the law says that if the local board is going to have committees, which we do, then we have to have a committee that will address the needs of targeted populations such as individuals with disabilities who face barriers to obtain employment. Pam stated that she was thinking of other populations to include that may face barriers to obtaining employment. She stated that Veterans may face barriers as they reenter civilian life. Another population that faces barriers, Pam stated, is ex-offenders. She said that ex-offenders is a tough population as they may be eliminated from any job because of their background. In summary, Pam stated that the committee will need to define the targeted populations to focus on and develop specific projects for initiatives and strategies moving forward. Members continued discussion regarding the suggested populations presented and agreed to get some statistics on unemployed dropouts before adding them to the list. Members agreed to retain individuals with disabilities, veterans and ex-offenders as the target population.

In regards to individuals with disabilities, Dan stated that it could be broken down into subgroups as that population may be have physical, intellectual and/or mental health disabilities.

Members then reviewed the responsibilities now that the target population has been identified. In regards to the responsibility to “coordinate and collaborate with appropriate other stakeholders to develop and implement strategies to address the challenges”, Pam told members that she is proposing to develop a Request for Proposal to develop an On-line Resource Mapping Guide. Vanessa informed members that Tri-County Opportunities has a Resource Guide posted to their website and is updated on an annual basis.

Pam stated that input from local businesses will be needed to help develop work-based learning and/or employment opportunities for those individuals facing barriers to employment.

Pam reminded members that during the WIOA Training facilitated by Melanie Arthur, she addressed some best practices and promising strategies that will create successful career pathways. Pam told members that Melanie provided her with some information and best practices that will be beneficial. Also, Pam stated that the facilitator that will be conducting staff training at the end of March will also present some best practices and suggest strategies that may be helpful in working with the targeted populations.

Lastly, Pam stated that information will be provided to assist with operational and other issues

relating to the provision of services to individuals with disabilities, including issues relating to compliance with the WIOA Section 188, if applicable, and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Continuing the discussion of the targeted populations identified, Vanessa suggested that being homeless may be considered a barrier to employment. Members agreed noting that homeless could be identified in a subgroup similar to individuals with disabilities.

WIOA Update

Pam provided members with an overview of the WIOA Planning Process. She told members that at this point, Partners are meeting to develop the Regional and Local Plan. Pam said that labor market information is being gathered to determine the industry sectors that will impact the Regional Area. Pam told members that Local Workforce Area #4 resides in 2 separate Economic Development Regions. Seven of the eight counties (Bureau, LaSalle, Lee, Putnam, Whiteside, Jo Daviess, and Carroll) are part of the Northwest Economic Development Region with Rock Island, Mercer and Henry Counties. She told members that Ogle County is part of the Northern Stateline Economic Development Region that includes Stephenson, Winnebago and Boone Counties. Once the Regional Plans are developed, then planning for the Local Plans can developed. As time goes on, Pam said, more individuals will be brought into the planning process. As an example, Pam said that businesses and schools will be invited to participate. Regarding the industry sectors, Pam told members that Transportation/Logistics, Manufacturing and Healthcare have been identified. However, she said, that specific occupation subgroups will be identified under each industry sector.

Pam informed members that the Plans will be due to the IL Department of Commerce on June 1. Therefore, she said, in order to allow for a 30-day comment period, the Plans will need to be available for public review by May 1. Because the final regulations will not be released until June, Pam said that the Department of Labor and IL Department of Commerce are planning for a modification to the Plans for October.

The other part of the planning process, Pam told members, is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Pam told members that Ottawa will be the site for the One Stop Center and Sterling will be considered as an affiliate center. Pam said that the Illinois Department of Employment Security has determined that they will only financially support one Comprehensive One Stop Center which will be Ottawa. She told members that the MOU Committee will consist of two parts. The first one will be the programs and services that are offered in the One Stop System to job seekers and businesses. The second part, Pam said, is the costs of running the One Stop System in the local workforce area. Pam told members that the MOU group will be meeting soon to start developing the document.

Other Business

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Vanessa Hoffeditz motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Teresa Strum and carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson