

**TARGETED POPULATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 19, 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
Clay Whelan			X

**OTHERS PRESENT (Peru):** Pam Furlan

**OTHERS PRESENT (Sterling):** Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dan pointed out that he was listed as both present and absent on the August 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes. It was noted that he was present at that meeting. Dan Fitzgerald motioned to approve the August 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded by Fidencio Campos and carried.

**Business Meeting**

Discussion of Results for each targeted area

Pam told members that a template was designed to determine the commonalities between Individuals with Disabilities, Ex-Offenders and Veterans. Members then reviewed the template noting how some of the barriers overlap between the targeted populations identified. Pam said that once the commonalities are identified, then the committee can start to address the responses to these barriers. Thoroughly reviewing the matrix members made changes accordingly. After dissecting the template, it was agreed that the updated matrix would be disseminated to members for their review.

Jobs for Felons / Felon Friendly Employers List

Carrie disseminated a copy of an email from Dianna Schuler that provided a link to a website the identified large employers who hire offenders. The second side of the email, Carrie said, provides a list of Felon Friendly Employers. She encouraged members to take a look at the

website. Carrie told members that the BEST, Inc. Business Relations Representatives are in the process of developing a list of local employers that may hire felons.

#### Other Business

Fidencio informed members that he talked with a veteran who is willing to speak to the committee about the difficulties he encountered getting a job after he was discharged from the service. Vanessa told members that she met with a veteran a few weeks ago. She said that she wanted to gain insight into what the process or barriers were for veterans. Vanessa told members that he indicated that soldiers upon their return from deployment and are leaving the military are often "debriefed" in different places rather than in their home state. For example, she said, some soldiers from Illinois could be debriefed in Wisconsin or Springfield. At this time, those areas may not have familiarity with the local resources that are available in their home area. Vanessa said that transition information is not always shared as there is a lot going on. She told members that for units that are deployed, there are folks left behind called the Readiness NCO. This position, Vanessa said, may be a good place to start to share information about services available as they can pass it on to the veteran. Vanessa commented that this veteran indicated that younger former members of the military are not as involved in the Legions. He told her that they may come back and want to get on with their lives and may not want to think about anything else but being back and seeing family members, etc.

Vanessa told members that Tri-County Opportunities would be participating in the Sheridan Correctional Center Summit of Hope on October 20. This event, she said, is for individuals that are being released. She told members that she plans to disseminate Partner information to the attendees. However, since this is the first time Tri-County is participating in such an event, she is not sure what to expect. Vanessa said that she will provide an update at the next committee meeting.

Pam asked Vanessa if information such as "ban the box" would be shared with those individuals at Sheridan Correctional Center. Vanessa responded that based on the list she received, those agencies participating are not employment related, but more service agencies and not-for-profits from the Chicagoland area. Carrie noted that since many of the individuals in Sheridan Correctional Center may not be from the local area so usually general types of information to the offender population.

Pam asked members for their preference about having a December meeting. After discussion, it was agreed to not have a December meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2017.

Pam also informed members that BEST, Inc. will be moving from the Peru location to IL Valley Community College in November.

#### Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Vanessa Hoffeditz motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Dan Fitzgerald and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson