

Workforce Improvement & Coordination Committee

ATTENDEES

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Helen Thatcher, Leader	Department of Workforce Services, Admin
Andrea Sutton	Department of Workforce Services, Admin
Blaine Petersen	Utah State Office of Rehabilitation
Britt Mathwich	The Homestead Resort
Christine Kearn	Utah State Office of Education
Delores Kahkonen	Wasatch County School District of Adult Education
Don Uchida	Utah State Office of Rehabilitation
Fran Cannard	Department of Workforce Services, Western Region
Gary Knapp	Enable Industries, Inc.
Gary Wixom	Utah Systems of Higher Education
JoAn Gerber, Minutes	Department of Workforce Services, Mountainland Region
Kathy Harby	Washington County School District
Russ Thelin	Utah State Office of Rehabilitation
Suzette Hudson	Department of Workforce Services, Admin

ACTION ITEMS

RESPONSIBLE	ACTION
Andrea Sutton	Get the Work Readiness open entry information out to WICC Committee.
Helen Thatcher	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk to Mike Richardson about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Patti Harrington as WICC co-chair o Mike meeting with Economic Development and requesting they be the temporary WICC chair o *Does the Chair need to be a member of the Council of Councils? o *Does the Chair automatically become a member of the Council of Councils? o *How is the connection made from WICC back to the Council of Councils and vice versa? 2. Obtain a Charter giving purpose to the Chair of the four sub-committees 3. WICC needs direction from the Council as to what is wanted from the Committee.

WELCOME

- Helen Thatcher called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees.
- Self-introductions were made.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

- A new Workforce Improvement and Coordination Committee chair has not yet been elected. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, is not able to accept this position at this time, but perhaps would be the co-chair.
- Economic Development will be asked to chair for the time being.

WICC'S PURPOSE

- The majority of the Workforce Improvement & Coordination Committee members consist of public-sector leaders with an interest in workforce development. There are one or two employer representatives.
- The Committee's purpose is to create better coordination between education, workforce services, vocational rehabilitation, etc., and to guide the organization and activities in partnering and achieving outcomes.
- **QUESTIONS***
 - In terms of overall organization is there a Charter giving a purpose for a chair of the four committees (Business Services and Marketing Committee, Operations and Performance, State Youth Council, WICC)?
 - What are the rules around the membership on the Council?
 - o Does the Chair need to be a member of the Council of Councils?
 - o Does the Chair automatically become a member of the Council of Councils?
 - How is the connection made from this Committee back to the Council and vice versa?
 - o Perhaps WEEDA would be a good place for on-going dialog and information sharing.
 - o DWS could facilitate.
 - What does the Council want? WICC needs direction.

WORK READINESS PILOT

- *Work Readiness* is a project in partnership with the Salt Lake Community College to develop curriculum and provide training in soft skills to job seekers. It is funded by a grant.
- The curriculum is finished.
- One pilot has been conducted. A second continues to go for two months. Salt Lake and Tooele have done the piloting. The intent is to roll Work Readiness out statewide. It would be available through Center for Technology in Education colleges.
- Open entry will be available beginning November 2005.
 - Students are being gathered.
 - Ask counselors again for referrals. There has not been a lot of participation from other Agencies.
 - Another 100 students are wanted.

- UCAT (Utah Applied Technology College Campuses) will distribute the information statewide.
- **Andrea** Sutton will get the information out to you.

INCUMBENT WORKER PROGRAM

- The Incumbent Worker Training Program (IWTP) is federally funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The Program's purposes are to provide grants to Utah employers who have new technology to assist with certain expenses associated with training and upgrading skills for their full-time employees and thus, in turn, help those workers gain the skills that keep them employed and increase their wages.
- UTA used IWTP to retrain employees on how to handle new hydraulics equipment for the disabled.
- IWTP is still standing, but new incumbents are not being sought. The funding cupboard is bare. It is not known how Hurricanes Katrina and/or Rita will affect block grants. The horrific devastation makes it difficult to complain.

WEEDA ACTIVITY REPORT

- The Workforce Education Development Alliance (WEEDA) is a subcommittee of WICC. They are looking at access to services – program and physical, and the reauthorization of WIA.
 - Gary Wixom is co-chair of this robust committee that is the only existing shoot off of WICC that is going. Membership seems to be a problem.
 - Some strategic planning has been accomplished.
 - Economic development is the focus.
 - Lofty goals have been established.
 - More information, i.e., current status, future plans and initiatives will be presented later today in a Break Out Session. You are invited to attend at 2:15 p.m. in the Birch room.

OTHER BUSINESS

- DWS has been very involved in helping the hurricane evacuees. People are being distinguished between Katrina and Rita. Many have stayed in Utah and have gotten jobs. Employers have stepped up. Communities have been phenomenal.
- DWS expects the fall out of Katrina to impact us financially. Grants may not be as plentiful in the coming year.

ADJOURN

- 9:10 a.m.