

Workforce Improvement and Coordination Committee Meeting

June 8, 2006 - 11:30 a.m.

Department of Workforce Services

140 East 300 South

Salt Lake City, Utah

Attendees: Mike Richardson, James Whitaker, Mary Shumway, Russ Thelin, Steve Maas, Helen Thatcher, Stephanie Smith, Tani Downing, Richard Kendell, Gary Wixom, Jason Perry, Robert Spendlove, Robert Knudson, Mary Gehman-Smith

Welcome - Tani Pack Downing

Tani welcomed the group. She previewed today's Agenda and discussed the purpose of the meeting. She introduced Richard Kendell, Commissioner of Higher Education, who will be Chairing this meeting. Commissioner Kendell called for introductions from the group.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) - Mike Richardson

Mike discussed the WIA State Plan. The statute mandates a state plan be developed. He stated the Workforce Improvement Coordination Committee (WICC) is the agency side of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB). Utah has one local WIB who controls the entire state while other states have many.

Workforce-Education-Economic Development Alliance (WEEDA) - Gary Wixom

Gary explained WEEDA is a subcommittee of the WICC. He referred to the Charter and provided some history. WEEDA reports to WICC who reports back to the State Council. There are four functioning committees within WEEDA. He defined each of these subcommittees. Successes have come out of WEEDA: 1) careers.utah.gov which is a set of services that has come together on the web and; 2) the nursing initiative. Many nurses have been trained that would not have been if we had not partnered. Tani suggested this committee demo SkillWindow and careers.utah.gov at the next meeting.

Targeted Industries - Steve Maas

Steve Maas reported traditionally DWS has focused on helping customers look for a job. DWS needed to determine what employers require as far as skill sets and what kinds of occupations employers are willing to train for. The Department of Labor (DOL) developed the E3 concept (Economic

Development, Education and the Employer industry). Then, DWS studied data and identified which industries were driving Utah's economy. A shortage of health care professionals was a huge issue in Utah. Staff looked at what kept the health care system from having enough RNs from entering the system. It was determined there was a constriction point where we didn't have enough trainers who are masters prepared. This kicked off the targeted industry concept. Grants were applied for and obtained. DWS worked with DOL to get a grant to help nurses get masters prepared. We identified our targeted industries. This was based on jobs that have self-sustainable wages and are transferable. We have had success with grants and recently partnered with Governor's Office of Economic Development's (GOED) on the Wired Initiative. Utah will partner with Montana on training. One issue we have run across is the WIA funding streams have been reduced in order to provide these grant opportunities. Some of these grants are requiring a community college to be a partner in order to apply for a grant. GOED has identified clusters, DWS has targeted industries, the Utah State Office of Education has high school to college pathways, the Governor's Office has targeted industries and DOL has identified their own targeted industries. We need to collaborate and brainstorm on grant applications and discuss how we, as an alliance of partners, are doing.

Executive Round Tables - Mary Shumway

Mary reported she has been involved with the Automotive/Heavy Duty Technician roundtable. They have been meeting since last August. They have broken out into various subcommittees.

Goal Setting

Commissioner Kendell suggested adopting GOED's major clusters. Mike added if we adopt these clusters, ask WEEDA to review the curriculum and meet the needs for targeted industries, we would be successful. Gary added we need to look ahead. We need to know from GOED what areas we need to be training for in the future. We need a mechanism in place so we can develop the infrastructure. Tani added many DWS customers need to be employed now. Some don't have the time or resources to obtain higher education. She feels there needs to be a track where customers can obtain entry level employment which will provide a career ladder and allow them to terminate their public assistance. Steve Maas feels we need to work on individual sectors to meet all agency needs. High school diplomas do not meet all needs. Most everyone needs secondary education. The group

agreed tracks, higher education and those requiring entry-level jobs need to be met. Jason Perry wants a high level approach for these goals. He feels grants and other types of funding sources should be added to the mix. Tani would like to focus on the Governor's targeted industries while DWS looks at their identified targeted industries. Then, this group can collaborate.

Summary

Mike Richardson summarized today's suggestions:

- Identify targeted industries;
- Add in the round table piece to review the curriculum;
- Identify future targeted industries;
- Improve career counseling;
- Improve retention;
- Add in the Economic Development piece

Tani stated she would like WEEDA to develop a plan on how to get customers off public assistance and into school. Meanwhile, the experts can sit down and identify targeted industries. WEEDA will make these recommendations and present to this group the third week in August. Richard Kendell's office will host the meeting.

Other

Mike Richardson announced the Council of Councils will be held on October 12, 2006 in Salt Lake City. He wants a planning workgroup to get started early. He asked the group to be involved in recognizing adults and youth at this meeting.

Steve Maas added he would like to see parents be able to gain access to careers.utah.gov. He suggested the WICC bring an action item to the State Council challenging Regional Councils to contact schools and link careers.utah.gov to their website.

Tani Downing motioned to approve the 25 April 2006 minutes as written, Mary Shumway seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.