

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Board Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2004
Executive Flight, East Wenatchee

Gary Park called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members and guests were introduced.

Terry Brewer moved and Kathy Mertes seconded to approve the November 15, 2003 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Health Skills Panel

The Panel's goal is to identify local health care system staff shortages. The panel has met twice. Meetings also provide an opportunity for health care administrators to learn about available resources such as the E3 Grant. E3 funding allows on-site instruction for incumbent health care workers. Currently 70 workers are taking classes in Wenatchee and Chelan. About 80% of the existing students are CNA's.

Ken distributed a handout and Power Point CD for making presentations to local groups about the Workforce Development Council. Staff is available to provide equipment and assist. The presentation is ten minutes long and will increase awareness about workforce issues and one stop resources.

Information and Analysis

Two important Council self- assessment areas are customer focus and information and analysis.

Long-term results were presented for those who exited October, 2001 through September, 2002. A regression model has been applied to adjust targets based upon participant demographics and local economic factors. Adult performance averaged 106% of goal; dislocated worker 102%; and youth 107% of federal measures. The State exceeded all goals and performance is improving in all areas.

The State Annual Report, which is the source of long-term performance results, was distributed. North Central's relative size of the State is 5.5%, yet our Area has more participants exiting training and earning credentials than any other in the State. On average, monthly earnings for adults increased \$1381 after exit. Dislocated worker performance was strong with wage replacement at 81%. The regression model increased the older youth earnings target by \$600 above the anticipated level and only 30 youth were included in the measure. As a result, our performance was only 48% of goal. Management is looking at strategies to improve.

Return on investment was also reviewed. The return was calculated using earnings gain, increased FICA, and estimated public assistance savings compared against workforce investment expenditures. The changes to return on investment very closely mirror changes in earnings gain.

Customer Focus

The planning exercise at the committees gave members an opportunity to prioritize who will be served and receive what types of services. Customers were gauged using three skill levels (unskilled, low skilled, and semi-skilled) and three categories of services (basic skills, career skills, and occupational skills). The

exercises led to valuable discussion at each meeting. If some decisions were taken at face value it could impact performance. (For example, a low priority for occupational skills among older high school graduates would adversely impact the ability to increase earnings). Basic and career skills alone are unlikely to increase earnings potential for high school graduates, but post secondary education will cause an increase. It is most difficult to keep dropouts engaged long enough to pass the GED.

Gary commented that larger companies in Moses Lake are performing basic skill testing. If they don't have basic skills, they can't even get hired.

Committee priorities will be combined with performance goals along with State and Federal guidance to determine the budget and goals this spring.

Grant/Adams Meeting Report

Mel asked if the new option has been signed. Dave said it has not and the original option expired. The decision was made to wait until the environmental assessment was complete because the seller did not want to offset the purchase prices with potential environmental findings. There is only an informal agreement at this time. The environmental assessment results indicate asbestos was adequately removed and there is no evidence of oil tank contamination. The architect's estimates an additional \$30,000 for sidewalks. Terry said it is the right location and \$30,000 is minimal compared to the total price.

Frank Noble moved and Marcia Henkle seconded to increase One Stop Purchase price subject to negotiation. Motion passed.

Youth Council

New Youth Council Member Steve Pike introduced himself. Steve has been manager of Stoneway Electric in Wenatchee for the past three years. He became involved with SkillSource youth program several years ago as a supervisor and has since decided to increase his involvement as a Youth Council member. He appreciated everyone's efforts and time given to serve local youth. It is a big need in the community and a big benefit providing youth with opportunities they otherwise would not have.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Members present:

Gary Park
Frank Noble
Peggy Gill
Cathy Kunzman, for Duane Johnson
Gene Schmidt
Mel Hansen
Marcia Henkle
Terry Brewer
Kathy Mertes
Georgia Nelson
Cheri Rayburn
Mike Baird

Members absent:

Karl Allison
Bill Bonaudi
Linda Chambers
Steve Chestnut
Rich Davies
Oscar Garza
John Hamilton
Dimitri Mandelis
Teresa Martinez
Lucille Pakootas
Roger Thieme
Mike Wade

Staff:

Dave Petersen
Lisa Romine
Laura Hennigh
Ken Kelnhofer
Erin Mundinger
John Rundell
Shari Milliken
Cindy Blaufuss

Youth Council:

Steve Pike