

Workforce Development Council
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2003
Enzian Motor Inn, Leavenworth

Gary Park called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Gary asked all members to mark the annual banquet on their calendar. The 20th recognition banquet is November 14, 2003.

Maria Cantwell recently visited Moses Lake. She has been a workforce development advocate.

The National Association of Workforce Boards annual conference begins March 1. Yvonne Jones and her supervisor from Samaritan Hospital will speak at the legislation reception on Tuesday evening. Maria Cantwell, Patty Murray, Doc Hastings, Jennifer Dunn and George Nethercutt are expected to attend.

Meeting Minutes

Mel Hansen moved and Alex Roberts seconded to approve the November 16, 2002 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Chelan/Douglas Committee Report

Cheri Rayburn reported Commissioner Keith Goehner and Leanne Dorsey from the Chamber were guests at the committee meeting. The quarterly employer luncheon schedule will be February 19. To date, 342 adult and dislocated workers have been registered. ACE workshop attendance has increased 50% in the last year. Strategic planning was discussed.

Grant/Adams Committee Report

Todd reported Rich Davies has been nominated to the Council pending Commissioner approval. Former committee member Art Russell is working for SkillSource as an adult trainer temporarily. He will be helpful because he knows business community.

Dave reports there have been several planning meetings with Todd and the architect regarding the new building. Hope to have the building completed and ready to occupy when the current lease expires. The next step is for the architect to meet with the city and then solicit bids for a developer. This will be a prevailing wage job. The initial lease will probably be ten years with at least two option periods. In addition to SkillSource, Employment Security, and possibly OIC and DVR, the center will include satellite offices for BBCC and Job Corp who are currently co-located at WorkSource.

Terry recommended contacting the Grant Transit Authority to include a bus stop or transfer location at the new center. Dave will follow up with the architect.

When a large employer closes, one-stop partners such as Employment Security and SkillSource provide rapid response services to the employees. This can include on-site workshops explaining retraining, employment opportunities, and assist with UI claims. There are several business closures including Basin Produce, Kmart, and Excel Foods in Ephrata. The possibility of expanding the definition of self-sufficiency was discussed.

Okanogan Committee Report

Anne said performance and the local economy were discussed. A Canadian company that manufactures fruit bars is considering opening a plant in Okanogan County. Wal-Mart is building a superstore and will hire about 150 additional employees. Wenatchee Valley College is offering customer service training in partnership with Workfirst.

Youth Council Nominations

Lisa noted one correction. Gail Davis is with Grant County Developmental Disabilities. Staff recommends nominating the following individuals to the Youth Council:

Okanogan County: Chelsie Mumm; Dennis Stewart; Dick Niemeyer; Clover Simon

Grant/Adams Counties: Gail Davis; Steve Chestnut; Tom Zender

The Youth Council focuses on teenaged participants. They are recommended by the Board and officially appointed by Commissioners.

Dave explained secondary education representatives on the WDC are automatically nominated to the Youth Council. Tom Zender replaces Dan Erickson at Job Corps.

Mike Baird moved and Terry Brewer seconded to approve the nominations. Motion passed.

Youth Services Integration Panning Grant

Dave explained this grant will help build the youth serving partnership. The plan will chart youth services in the community. This is an objective of the youth council now.

Mel Hansen moved and Kathy Mertes seconded to accept the grant. Motion passed.

Targeted Industries Partnership

Dave explained this proposal focuses on upgrading entry level health care workers. Health care occupations require education to progress. Employees cannot move from CNA to LPN or RN without education. It is difficult for an employed person to attend school full-time, study, hold down a job, etc., all at the same time. This grant would pay

community colleges to modularize existing course work subject to health care employers sending their entry level workers to classes on payroll.

Georgene will meet with hospital administrators next week and learn what classes they are willing to send staff to on payroll. This format has worked well with maintenance mechanics upgrading. Olympia thinks it is a good model for health care workers too.

**Alex Roberts moved and Terry Brewer seconded to accept the grant if offered.
Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00

Members Present:

Tom Boyd, alternate
Kathy Mertes
Mel Hansen
Cherie Rayburn
Steve Chestnut
Mike Baird
Terry Brewer
Alex Roberts, alternate
Gary Park

Committee Members:

Anne Potter
Todd Dixon

Staff:

Dave Petersen
Lisa Romine
Ken Kelnhofer
Erin Munding
John Rundell
Georgene Ford
Laura Hennigh
Cindy Blaufuss

Members Absent:

Karl Allison
Bill Bonaudi
Oscar Garza
John Hamilton
Duane Johnson
Dan Leary
Dimitri Mandelis
Teresa Martinez
Dick Neimeyer
Georgia Nelson
Frank Noble
Lucille Pakootas
Donna Scott
Roger Thieme