

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Board Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2003
WorkSource, Omak

Lewis Blakney with the Okanogan County Small Business Development Center explained their services are part of the Small Business Administration, Washington State University, and the Economic Alliance of Okanogan County. Their services focus on local business owners and those interested in starting a business. Similar offices are located in Wenatchee and Moses Lake.

The economic development picture in Okanogan County is improving. The local veneer plant is back in operation and expanded adding 100 new jobs. A business specializing in dried fruit is moving to Okanogan County with 25-30 jobs. There are plans to begin a business incubator in Omak or Okanogan. The incubator will give new business a facility and assistance until they are established and can support their own location. Several local businesses are expanding capacity including an EMT service, a clinic, and physical therapist. Another new business to the area specializes in copying videotapes to DVD.

Georgia Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:15.

A revised August 5, 2003 Grant/Adams Committee Report was distributed. Several attendees and a committee recommendation were omitted from the initially distributed.

The Workforce Strategies 2003 Conference is in Wenatchee on October 7 and 8, with a pre-conference trip to Leavenworth sponsored by SkillSource the evening of October 6. Dave encouraged everyone to attend.

U.S. Senator Patty Murray visited SkillSource in Moses Lake. It was a good visit. Students who had attended the maintenance mechanic classes spoke about their ability to attend training without missing work. She is a strong advocate for workforce development and it was beneficial for her to personally hear its impact on students. She heard clients and employers talk about their success and about skills learned. The fact that people being served talked to a U.S. Senator and described the value of what we see as important. Terry Brewer said it was very nicely done.

Dave added it was nice to have so much there to show her because of the partners. He explained to the Senator that those in attendance were the tip of the iceberg. There are so many more attending class at the community colleges, learning skills on the job, or benefiting at partner locations.

Linda Chambers from BEST has been appointed to replace Tom Martinez. Peggy Gill from UFCW has the approval of the Commissioners pending nomination by the Central Labor Council. Gene Schmidt, Superintendent of the Bridgeport School District will replace Dick Neimeyer representing secondary education. Adams County Commissioner Jeff Stevens is following up with Joe Montemayor from Othello to fill Dan Leary's vacancy.

Terry Brewer moved and Kathy Mertes seconded to approve the May 20, 2003 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Memorandum of Understanding

The MOU is a non-financial agreement between the Council and partners. At a minimum, it describes core services partners provide and make available through the one stop system. It is also a commitment to coordinate referrals. Duane distributed a revision to the DVR Section of MOU Attachment A. The revision better outlines the services provided to DVR clients.

The Chelan/Douglas committee discussed the core services outlined in Attachment A and whether clarification of universal core versus core services to eligible populations would be better.

Kathy Mertes moved and Tom Boyd seconded to approve the Okanogan, Grant/Adams, and Chelan/Douglas Memorandum of Understanding as presented pending partner clarification of core services. Motion passed.

One Stop Certification

Each site completed the certification process two years ago. The certifications were approved for two years, but because it is such an involved process, a four year certification seems more appropriate. Dave, Trina, and Ken visited the One Stop Center and affiliates to review progress on continuous quality improvement and Council recommendations. Dave enjoyed his visit to Mattawa Opportunities Center. It is a very valuable service to the community and he was glad to see Big Bend Community College taking the lead with Employment Security's support. An extension until June, 2005 is recommended.

Bill Bonaudi moved and Frank Noble seconded to extend the Okanogan, Grant/Adams, and Chelan/Douglas One Stop Certification through June, 2005. Motion passed.

Grant/Adams Youth Council Appointments

Bonnie Frost, Paul Loeffler, and Sandra Godin were nominated to the Grant/Adams Youth Council.

Terry Brewer moved and Kathy Mertes seconded to approve the Grant/Adams Youth Council appointments. Motion passed.

Chelan/Douglas Youth Council Appointments

Steve Pike, Keith Wilson, and Lisa Paige were nominated to serve on the Chelan/Douglas Youth Council.

Bill Bonaudi moved and Duane Johnson seconded to approve the Chelan/Douglas Youth Council appointments. Motion passed.

Auditor Selection

McQuaig and Welk have conducted the internal audit for at least ten years. The committee recommends selecting Cordell, Neher, and Company for up to five years.

Bill Bonaudi moved and Terry Brewer seconded to approve Cordell, Neher, and Company as auditor. Motion passed.

Section 503 Incentive Grant

Washington State has received a Section 503 Incentive Grant for exceeding federal workforce investment, vocational education, and adult basic education performance goals. Nationwide, only two states exceeded all performance goals. North Central WDC will receive \$221,291. This is a new source of funds and the application requires approval of community college presidents and school superintendents.

The State would like the funds to address the health care shortage which could be done in many ways. Bill explained expanding upon the idea of the Rural Hispanic Health Care Initiative might be a good strategy. It tries to attract non-traditional populations to the health care industry. Perhaps expand the program into more communities or extend the program length. Dave asked Steve what could help attract high school students to health care occupations. Steve believes it is a lack of information and suggested expanding Gear Up. Gear up focuses on students in grades 6, 7, and 8 and follows them through high school. The goal is to plant the seed that college is an option after high school. Kathy commented this might be a good opportunity to pilot something new and different.

WDC funds are almost always pro-rated by formula among the three areas. These monies will follow that pattern and Dave will organize a meeting with the College Presidents and School Superintendents to develop a plan for submittal to Olympia.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Board Members:

Georgia Nelson
Bill Bonaudi
Frank Noble
Duane Johnson
Teresa Martinez
Kathy Mertes
Tom Boyd, alternate (Wade)
Steve Chestnut
Terry Brewer

Staff:

Dave Petersen
Lisa Romine
Ken Kelnhofer
Erin Mundinger
Cindy Blaufuss

Members Absent:

Karl Allison
Mike Baird
Oscar Garza
John Hamilton
Mel Hansen
Marcia Henkle
Dimitri Mandelis
Lucille Pakootas
Gary Park
Cheri Rayburn
Roger Thieme
Rich Davies

Guests:

Anne Potter, WorkSource Okanogan County
Lewis Blakney, Small Business Development Center