

**.Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board, Inc.**

**MINUTES OF November 6, 2007**

Site: The Workforce Connection, 3134 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Rockford, IL 61109

**WIB Present (22):** Allan Barsema, Dr. Jack Becherer, Karen Brown, Paul Callighan, Linda Campos, Angela Hite-Carter, Janet Ellis, Pedro Enriquez, Dr. Richard Fairgrievies, James Fehlhaber, Steve Gibson, Lynn Godina, Luanna Grimes, Stephanie Lueder, Larry McKay, Dave Morgan, Richard Mowris, Mark Podemski, Maureen Rosenberg, Jim Ryan, Gus Saros, Shirley Walker **Absent (17):** Steve Anderson, Jon Bates, Shirley Burks, Michele Caldwell, Kevin Dulian, Todd Kindred, Harvey Lightbody, Dan Parod, John Phelps, Dr. Owen Phelps, Jim Pirages, Mary Beth Scholten, Mark Stefanic, Nord Swanstrom, Elton Turner, C. Mark Williams, Steve Yagle

**WIB Staff Present:** Darcy Bucholz; Trudy Wellman; John Strandin; Robert Jones Jr.

**Partner Staff Present:** Tom Austin – IDES, Dan White – Rock River Training Corporation; Mike Williams – Rock River Training Corporation; Gary Lawson – Rock Valley College Dislocated Worker Program; Linda Sullivan – disabilityWorks; Ted Duckett – IDES, Sue Molyneaux – Rock River Training Corporation; Amy Massoth – Rock Valley College Refugee and Immigrant Services

**Guests Present:** Rick Clark – NIU; Mike Booker, Deputy Chief – Rockford Police Department

I. **WIB Call to Order.** WIB Chairman Richard Mowris called the Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board meeting to order at 7:38 a.m.

II. **WIB Minutes of September 4, 2007:** Dave Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes of September 4, 2007. Mark Podemski provided the second to the motion. The minutes were approved.

III. **Consent Agenda:** Darcy Bucholz provided background on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Individual Training Account (ITA) cap being raised from \$5,000 per participant to \$6,000. Tuition, books, and fees have increased since the implementation of the \$5,000 cap. In addition, parameters for determining an individual eligible for training services under WIA has been added to the policy. The language mirrors the WIA regulations.

Dr. Richard Fairgrievies made a motion to approve the revisions to the WIB's ITA policy that includes increasing the ITA cap from \$5,000 to \$6,000 per participant and adding the training eligibility language. Paul Callighan provided a second to the motion. The revisions to the WIB's ITA policy were approved.

IV. **Drug Alternative Strategy Program - Presentation:** Deputy Chief Mike Booker of the Rockford Police Department gave a presentation on a program that is being implemented in the City of Rockford in high drug trafficking areas. The program is an alternative to incarceration for individuals caught dealing drugs. The individuals must be willing to participate in social services and employment opportunities to remain out of jail. The program involves a community collaboration of programs and faith-based organizations. The program has been successfully implemented in one area of Rockford, with five individuals involved. The second area for implementation has been selected and drug dealing behavior is being monitored to identify potential program participants. One of the keys to the success of this program is employment. Employers interested in participating in this community effort are asked to contact Deputy Chief Booker or the Business Account Managers at The Workforce Connection. The program is intended to reduce the violent crime in our community and success related to reduction of crime and neighborhood safety is apparent in the the first area of implementation.

Paul Callighan made a motion to refer the tracking and follow-up of this program to the Program Oversight Committee so the WIB will stay updated on progress. Shirley Walker provided a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

**V. Financial Reports:** Dan White reviewed the financial statements for the first quarter of PY 2007. We are slightly under spent in the three main funding streams, which is not a major concern at this time. The greater concern is the lack of obligations in training for the Dislocated Worker Program. The number of program participants entering the program is less than previous years, but those entering occupational training or re-training is even fewer.

Gary Lawson, Director of the Dislocated Worker Program spoke on behalf of the unobligated funds in their funding stream. Individuals are applying for the program, but are not interested in staying in the program. What they are seeing are individuals who want a job, rather than upgrading their skills and education level.

**VI. Executive Director's Report:**

- Relocation Update –
  - The Rockford Center relocation to 303 N. Main Street is moving forward. IL Central Management Services (CMS) is in the process of negotiating the sub-lease for the Department of Employment Security (DES). Once the sub-leases are all signed the build-out will begin with move in approximately 120 days after build-out begins. The anticipated occupancy time frame is late Spring.
  - The Belvidere Center will be moved by the end of November. An open house will be announced and the board will have an opportunity to tour the new facility.

US DOL Driving Transformation Forum – A team from our local area has been approved by Department of Labor to participate in this national conference to be held in Chicago in mid December. The forum will provide access to knowledge and tools necessary for energizing and re-imagining the public workforce system within the context of regional economic development in a global market place. The team will have access to facilitators and content consultants in five key focus areas: 1) Workforce System Structure & Governance; 2) Understanding the Talent Pool; 3) Diversification of Workforce Funding; 4) Service Delivery Strategies for One-Stop Career Centers; and 5) Change Management.

- The National Association of Workforce Boards Annual Conference is scheduled for February 24 through 26, 2008 in Washington D.C. Board members were provided conference information. Funding is available for three or four WIB members to attend the conference. Board members interested were asked to contact Darcy by the end of November.

**VII. Other/New Business:**

- A recent announcement related to the elimination of the third shift with Chrysler was discussed. Staff from The Workforce Connection will be gathering information from the Chrysler suppliers to determine the impact on their operations and the number of employees to be affected. We will also be identifying companies that will be hiring in the next 10 months or so and identifying possible short term or accelerated training options for employees affected by the layoffs.
- The next meeting is a WIB/CEO meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 7:30 a.m. in Rooms 4 & 5, 3134 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Rockford, Illinois.
- The Executive Committee will meet Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 12:00 noon in Room #4.

**VIII. WIB Adjournment:** Dr. Richard Fairgrievies made a motion to adjourn. Shirley Walker provided a second to the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 a.m.

**Items included with the WIB meeting packet:**

- 1) 11/06/07 WIB Agenda
- 2) WIB Minutes of September 4, 2007
- 3) Consent Agenda

4) WIB Financial Report – September 30, 2007

Trudy Wellman

Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board

Date

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(Signature affixed upon WIB approval)

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(Date affixed upon WIB approval)