

**NWCEP Board of Director's Meeting  
Wednesday, August 19, 2009 –10:30 a.m.  
NWCEP, Inc. Administrative Office – Ashland, WI**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present**

Ray Maday  
Gene DuSell  
Hal Helwig  
Lew Martin  
Dan Racette  
Dee Gokee-Rindal  
Jack Sweeney  
Peg Kurilla  
Steve Sather  
Rollie Thumbs alt. for Al Beadles  
Dan Corbin

**Absent**

Bill Kacvinsky  
George Sears  
Doug Finn  
Al Beadles  
Dave Willingham  
Dennis DeRosso

**Others**

Steve Terry  
Jenny Baron  
Linda Barnes  
Bill Eskola

The meeting was called to order by Dan Racette, Chairman. A quorum was present. It was noted that the public meeting notice was published in two class a newspaper and aired on the area radio stations. Guests introduced were Linda Barnes, CEP Public Relations/Marketing Specialist and Bill Eskola, CEP Operations Director.

**Approval of the June 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Lew Martin made a motion to approve June 17, 2009, meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Hal Helwig. Vote taken, carried unanimously.

**ARRA Update**

Steve Terry reported that there are 1,000 clients on the program due to the additional ARRA funds CEP received. Steve reported that NWCEP met their goals with 218 adults being served, 277 in the Dislocated Worker program, 291 youth in the summer program. Most goals have been exceeded and met. He indicated that expenditures are \$1,055,000 spent.

**Summer Youth Program Report**

Steve indicated that Karen Pfiel, DWD monitor for CEP recently reviewed the programs and projects taking place. Her report was distributed to the Board for review. Some successes were the invasive species projects where five youth were trained and hired to monitor invasive species in our area, which is a state funded project. The other project is the energy advocate program where staff are being hired to research energy efficiency in homes and give people advice on how to update their homes for energy efficiency.

One area cited was hiring youth to work in religious institutions, which could be disputed due to religious schools taking open enrollments.

Bill Eskola, CEP Operations Director noted that CEP's response to the monitoring report were included. Bill indicated the worksite agreements were modified, which have been acceptable for many years, but required more language to comply with WIA.

Steve noted that a report was included in the packet that had the worksites involved and the counties where they're located for the Summer Youth Program.

### **On the Job Training Report**

Bill Eskola distributed an on the job training report which he explained. He indicated that between October of 2008 and June of 2009, 48 OJTs have been provided. Bill discussed the hourly wage, reimbursement rate from CEP, training hours and the cost. The jobs have to pay a minimum of \$10 per hour with a stipulation of a \$2 increase by the end of the OJT contract. Bill will start a new list starting on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Bill indicated that they're getting good feedback from employers on the value of the program.

### **WIA Appropriations & Re-authorization Update**

Steve directed the Board to the handout in the packet that gives an update on the changes that are likely to occur under the new federal administration. Steve noted that there is a push to promote people to enter post secondary education programs. It was noted that the one to two year degree programs aren't for everyone, so short term training programs are being researched and developed to meet the demand for workers in high demand occupations. Steve noted that the new DOL Secretary is Jane Oates. She has expressed support for WIA reauthorization. Steve reported that eligibility requirements may be streamlined. He explained some of the testimonials that DOL supports for WIA reauthorization. It was noted that there is recognition of dual customers with job seekers and employers. Steve discussed the concern with the lack of contributions to the Job Centers due to budget cuts in the one stop system which he indicated is being addressed with the WIB sub-committees.

### **Dislocated Worker Update & DW Special Response Grant Update**

Bill explained that the dislocated worker report tracks dislocations taking place since 2009. The total affected through area dislocations have been over a 1,000 individuals. Bill reported that CEP received \$235,000 in special response funds from DWD to assist with training and other supportive services for DW clients.

### **Job Center Customer Counts**

Jenny Baron discussed the Job Center handout in the Board packet. The handout is a monthly spreadsheet that tracks how many people are coming into the Job Centers for services. She pointed out the increase in Job Center traffic in those areas where dislocations have taken place and a slight decrease in traffic in areas where the supportive services of the Job Center partners have taken place to assist with area dislocations.

### **New Grants Update**

Steve gave a grants update. Steve indicated that CEP received two Sector Strategy Grants for \$25,000 a piece to bring together industry stakeholders to discuss developments manufacturing and other businesses and in training needs.

Steve reported that the WIB's request for the EISP grant for \$86,000 was received at \$100,000. This will be used for advanced training opportunities and incumbent worker training for a certificate program in manufacturing and Electromechanical Maintenance at Northcentral Technical College.

### **HRSA Direct Care Worker Update**

Steve Terry reported that CEP received a the \$375,000 grant to fund the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) project where the goal is to get those on the wait list for healthcare worker training on site or placed in a technical college. A need was identified to recruit and train healthcare workers to keep people in their homes. It was noted that this is a great opportunity for individuals to begin at this level and career ladder in the medical field. Steve included the meeting minutes and the agenda from the first HRSA meeting in the packet to show the Board of the progress taking place.

### **Regional Innovations Grant**

Steve noted that he, LeRoy Forslund, Mari Kay-Nabozny, Bambi Pattermann, NWWIB Member and Andy Lisak, Director of the Superior Development Association attended the last RIG meeting in Duluth. It was noted that Bruce Lindgren, NWWIB member joined the group. The goal for the group is to continue working on creating an economic development and education collaboration plan for our 17 county multi-state region in northwest Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota.

### **Marketing/PR Information Update**

Linda Barnes, CEP's Marketing/PR representative explained the news items that were included in the packet, which were a compilation of success stories regarding the summer program, the welding boot camp and other workforce initiatives taking place. Steve noted that this news item packet has been sent to area legislators and have been published in area newspapers.

### **Next Meeting Date and Location**

The next meeting of the CEP Board of Directors will take place at the call of the Chair. It was noted that the next meeting should take place at another location. Spooner was suggested.

### **Adjournment**

Dennis DeRosso made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ray Maday. Vote taken, carried unanimously.
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