

Vermilion County Workforce Innovation Board
Workforce Solutions Committee
Thursday, February 2 2017 at 8am
Vermilion Advantage

Members Present: Kim Kuchenbrod JJ Jett Lori Russell Chuck Jones
Charlie Jeffers Stephanie Yates Melissa Ronto Joe Mollica Angele Burns
Willie Christian

Members Absent: Mike Marron Brandi Brines Janice Coleman Dave Kietzmann
Tami O'Bannon Lori Phillips Kathie Porter Becky Robinson Janice Smith

Others Present : Lindsay Light Chris Hightower

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kuchenbrod at 8:05am.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by JJ, seconded by Stephanie. No opposed, motion carried.

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes was made by Joe, seconded by Melissa. No opposed, motion carried.

There were no audience comments.

There were no action items for this meeting.

It was decided by the committee that all future correspondence and packets would be solely electronic.

Discussion Items:

Job Projection Survey Questions – Kim thought about some of the questions asked in the past, but wants to add a few additional questions. Do you offer internships for adults? If so, how many of those interns did you offer employment to? Are there any current training needs? We can address a possible shortage and route them over to Brian and JJ for additional funding for that training or put them in contact with training that already exists. Where are you getting your best employees? She wants them to identify that resource. Of the 50 that you hired (using 50 as a base), where did you pull them from/find them? Did you find them from DACC, and if so what program? This would be tier one. If you didn't get them from a community college, did you get them from a competitor? Did you get them from an apprenticeship training school? The VA? Are they a veteran? She wants to see a clear pattern on where these people are coming from. Maybe there is an "untapped resource"? This will start building a baseline to help identify possible gaps. Dr. Burns asked if there is a comprehensive list of where the internships are, like what companies they're with? Kim stated that there isn't a complete list, but she will see if she can put one together. Some of them can be obtained through career cruising including ThyssenKrupp, taking ten internships a year, but those will actually be doubled this year. Watchfire also has summer college internships. She will work on putting a list together of those who offer internships. Kim asked if there were any other questions the committee could come up with they'd like to add to the survey. JJ stated he thinks the questions so far are great because it helps Vermilion County Works with their new grant as well.

Teen Goal Program Pilot @ DHS – Kim thinks the schools are listening to the committee and to the employers, so she wanted to share that she is aware a teacher at DHS has been asked to put together a work-readiness program, and Kim pitched Chuck’s GOALS program to them. She is thinking that we could use that program as DHS’ pilot program, and this might possibly reach out to the other high schools. Chuck suggested maybe using the curriculum he put together for the Westville High School in the past. He worried that the GOALS program was too tailored to adults. With that, it will identify a group of students who are work ready. Is there any way a credential could be attached to this? Chuck stated it was possible, worth looking into.

Healthcare Fair – DACC is holding a healthcare fair for students on April 24-from 9-11, targeting HS freshman and sophomores. She didn’t know what role we could play, possibly duplicating this for adults.

Tour of Industries – Vermilion Advantage is putting together one this spring, no set date yet. They’re not sure which companies will be included at this time. She just wanted to put the event on the committee’s radar.

Organization of Summer Job Fair – What does this committee think about possibly organizing a job fair for retail, fast food, etc. in the summer? Is it the role of this committee or something we can do to help coordinate a larger summer job fair and invite people who are looking for temp help for the summer and/or internships for the summer? Do we want to reach out to employers to organize one large one? JJ said it would be worth it to take it to the businesses to see would participate in the summer one after DACC does theirs in April? He also mentioned bringing a retail one together prior to Christmas. Joe stated large manufacturers have a large turnover, so he didn’t believe you could ever have too many job fairs. Kim will pull people within the week and find out what the interests are and when she has results she will have Lindsay shoot it out to everyone.

VA has added an education cluster to the clusters. There is a strong teacher shortage in the area. There is a need for a clerical worker in the DHS guidance counselor’s office. Willie questioned this position being a possible externship. Kim referred him to Dianna Kirk.

Member Comments:

JJ stated last meeting the bus route was discussed, and he stated that results the first week were 37 to DACC, 27 to GED classes, 10 coming to WDC for the GOALS program and job search. The numbers were down the second week to 34, and this week is slower again. There are a couple of other things going on – the Workforce Development Center is bringing back the GED class. There will also be a GED class out at the Authority. Also, the ICP grant is started, Brian in meetings today. JJ stated it looks as though they’re definitely going to fund it, but possibly a through different pot of money, resulting in a more streamlined process.

Land of Lincoln Legal Services – If you have a client with barriers (non-serious legal offense), you can refer to VCW for referral to LOL. There is an orientation on Feb 28th orientation on expungement to get things started. If anyone has a client interested, please refer to VCW. There was discussion about whether it was right from an employer’s perspective to “hide” or “eliminate” someone’s past record. Dr. Burns clarified what is qualified for expungement. She presented an example to the committee. Discussion ensued. They will be doing outreach, and there is an attorney available for employers who specializes in employment law. This could be promoted through the clusters and this group. Kim mentioned shooting it out to the HR safety council.

Funding for incumbent worker training is currently depleted. Funding is unknown until possibly April.

Melissa stated that Thursday, March 2nd at 1pm at DACC, Bremer in Room 109 is the next employment roundtable. They're looking for an employer to do informational sharing about HR policies and hiring needs. DHS-ORS is also doing a workshop on Wednesday, March 8th at 10am with guest speakers coming in to prepare individuals for employment.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2nd at 8am at Vermilion Advantage. Kim stated at this point she might have some job projection results available.

Motion to adjourn was made by Joe, seconded by Dr. Burns. No opposed motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:44am.