



Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

Notes

Friday • December 14, 2007 • 8:30 am – 10:30 am
Humboldt County Office of Education • Sequoia Room
901 Myrtle Avenue • Eureka, CA

Members Present: Butch Barker, Teri Coltra, Joe Davey, Janet DePace, Maggie Gainer, Carol Hill, Libby Maynard, Jeff Nelson, David Perry, Bryan Plumley, Cedar Reuben, Bob Sampson, James Smith, Alex Stillman

Members Absent: Emilia Bartolomeu, Ernie Behm, Jeff Bobbitt, Debi Callahan, Maura Eastman, Ben Fewell, Jill Geist, Linda Grimm, Barbara Groom, Randy Hansen, Mariann Hassler, Madelin Holtkamp, Bob Laffranchi, Beverly Lewis, Dale Maples, Tina Nerat, Jon Sapper, Liana Simpson, Sallie Speaker, Kermit Thobaben, John Woolley

Others Present: Sandy Alcaraz, Bruce Alexander, Greg Aslanian, Nancy Bay, Dwayne Chandler, Jacqueline Debets, Ahn Fielding, Steve Hughes,

1. OPENING:

1.1 Call to Order: Chair Cedar Reuben called the meeting to order at 8:35am without a quorum.

1.2 Self-introductions of WIB members, staff and public present: Everyone introduced themselves.

1.3 Adjustments to the Agenda: Consent agenda and Youth Program set aside due to lack of quorum.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION:

3.1 Consent Agenda: Quorum not met

3.2 Ethics: It is required that an ethics program be completed by Full WIB members. Need proof of completion; a certificate issued and a copy sent to the WIB secretary. Will put the link to the on line class onto the WIB website. Next meeting will do a few scenarios concerning ethics; intention is to have training complete so all WIB members can participate in discussions.

3.3 Youth Program Design: This fund started with a \$600,000.00 per year budget but now it's closer to \$300,000.00 per year. Have had some very successful programs; Digital Pathways and the Step-Up program. Are continuing discussions on hiring a full time person to coordinate the youth programs. Youth council would like to use \$10,000.00 that has already been set aside as seed money to get the coordinators position jump-started. Beverly Morgan-Lewis (Humboldt County DHHS) has provided \$50,000.00 per year for three years. 16% of the budget has been set aside for funding this position. Having a full time person will provide an opportunity to work with more employers and youth.

3.4 View Healthcare occupations video:

- Department of labor projects a 30% increase in health care
- Aging population, especially in California where there are more people
- Many opportunities for nurses, lab technicians, LVN's and RN's.
- Extreme shortage of EMT's and nurses
- Beginning wages are higher
- This field is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week
- The medical field will always be there, big demand
- A field in which you can provide well for your family
- Demand for x-ray technicians, nurses, physical therapists, home health care
- Training requirements vary
- Entry level jobs require very little training

- Pharmacy training is in high demand
- Technical career salaries can range from \$30,000.00 -\$42,000.00 annually
- Dental hygienists, lab technicians and dental assistants are also in need
- Industry that includes monetary benefits and self fulfillment
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4. **BREAK:** Ten-minute break was taken.

5. **DISCUSSION & ACTION:**

5.1 **WIA re-authorization report:** This was a legislative conference held in Florida; Jacqueline attended. Extremely contentious. Can't get youth healthcare passed. WIA is very vulnerable right now. Administration has been effective in undermining the system. The rescission was reduced but it will still happen. There will be less money over the next two years. EDD will reduce our drawdowns by 2%. Government is trying to save the base of the funding. The formula used hurts California, especially our area. Reauthorization will probably not happen until after the presidential election. May have to rethink the budget. We're at the top of the queue to be funded. Of the original \$992,000.00 requested, Jacqueline has asked for \$250,000.00 to use now. Overall, California is looking at an 8 million dollar cut in funds; locally it will be something like \$350,000.00. Local businesses need to get letters out to Legislators by February. The Senate is where things fell apart. Workforce demands are changing which puts less need for training dollars.

5.2 **Strategic discussion:** Key messages for Education & Training; Infrastructure; attitude-Put this item on the next agenda. Need to get a Call to Action to the Board.

6. **REPORTS:** Applied for \$225,000.00 Rapid Response Special Project grant, and \$992,000.00 in Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers. We have not heard any word yet.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Richardson's Grove; lack of the ability to bring in large trucks cause great expense to local businesses. Many years' in negotiation. The concern is with taking out old growth trees. Largest tree to be cut would be 14" and no old growth taken. Could allow SDA trucks into the county by the end of May. Environmentalists are trying to stop this process. There has to be a study on the impact to business as there is no proof that the economy is being hurt. Many people are questioning this, don't want area to end up with large chain stores. Caltrans doesn't feel they need an EIR. Caltrans needs support at the county level.

8. **CLOSING:** Meeting adjourned at 10:29 am.