

Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday • November 5, 2009 • 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Prosperity Center Conference Room
520 E Street, Eureka, CA

Draft Minutes

Members Present: Maggie Gainer (Chair), Terry Coltra, Bryan Plumley, Jon Sapper

Members Absent: Mark Lovelace and Ahn Fielding

Others Attending: Donna Wheeler, Jacqueline Debets and Sandy Alcaraz

1. OPENING

1.1 Call to Order - Maggie Gainer brought the meeting to order at 1:35

1.2 Adjustments to the Agenda - None

1.3 Introductions - No introductions needed

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

3. DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEMS

3.1 Minutes - **Motion** made by Terry Coltra, second by Jon Sapper to approve minutes from previous (September 17, 2009) meeting, so carried.

3.2 Membership - Required partners; we've lost a few members but have people that fill multiple roles; Jacqueline put them in those roles in order to have a roster that satisfies the state. Barbara LaHaie oversees all positions including Adult Training and CalWorks. She is in Joe Davey's vacated position (ETD) as well as CalWorks position. Economic Development seat is covered by Maggie; she also covers a private sector seat. We need to fill Adult Education; Michelle Hutchins will be submitting an application for appointment to the WIB and she would satisfy this seat. Michelle is waiting for her board to nominate her. **Motion** made by Terry Coltra, second by Bryan Plumley to recommend Michelle Hutchins to the Full WIB pending her application, so carried. Helen Callahan and Maura Eastman have missed 3 or more consecutive Full WIB meetings; the Board needs to reverse automatic drop if we want to keep them as members. **Motion** made by Terry Coltra, second by Jon Sapper to reverse automatic drop of Helen Callahan and Maura Eastman, so carried. When Bob Sampson resigned from the WIB, Maggie Gainer became Chair which leaves the Vice-Chair position open. Bryan Plumley is next in line to step up unless a special election is held. Essentially we would have 6 members on the Executive Committee until the next elections are held in April. It's not written in the by-laws that the Business-at-Large position moves into the Vice-Chair position. Chair Maggie Gainer appointed Bryan Plumley of Edward Jones Investments as Vice-Chair until the next election.

3.3 Headwaters Workforce Initiative - *Jon, have you had any specific conversations about WIB involvement?* This initiative has been an evolving process; close to moving out. The five strategies that have been identified are right on target; they are as follows:

- Humboldt County builds its own workforce
- All students are successful
- "Get Me Back on Track" program for 4th and 9th grade students
- "Let's Visit a College"
- Preparing financially for Post-Secondary education

What are interests of the WIB? We have a steering committee, which is nearly formed. Hope to launch after the first of the year. HCOE has allocated a significant amount of funds towards the initiative. There's an opportunity in each program; a lot of work to be done. Someone actually has to link kids. Mendocino could participate, looking at a

regional component. WIB and WIB staff work at different levels. *What would it take to hire staff?* Directives could come from the Board; policies that might be put into place. WIB or WIB staff could provide coordination to glue things together; working on research development as well as developing workforce. We can't see the Board not being involved in this process. We're coming around in circles here in this whole thinking of what we're missing. The WIB has been somewhat of a leader in this and they need to continue and develop this process. Staff should be connected to the WIB, not someone from outside which would be less efficient. There's been quite a bit of conversation going on about intervention strategy over at HCOE. Try searching Google for prison and reading scores; amazing correlation between reading skills at 4th grade level and those that will end up in prison. Cultural thing that's scary here is "well, my kids won't be here anyway; they're going to leave the area". It's a big change in mindset. Is there a feeling as to the glue piece? Would we be interested in taking this on with current WIB staff or by bringing someone new on? We haven't done any short-term grant funded positions yet. A cheerleader role could be very active; a very important role. ARRA funds from the 25% side might be of use for this. Those funds will be coming through direct allocation into the county; there's more flexibility with the funds this way.

3.4 December WIB meeting planning - The next Executive Committee meeting will be the week prior to the Full WIB meeting; we need a draft agenda that's pretty much developed by then. Jon Sapper should finish his presentation from the Decade of Difference initiative from the last meeting. We could break up into small groups, discuss and engage in this conversation with 1 or 2 probing questions that will get the discussion going. Possibly have a presentation from Fire and Light. Jacqueline will announce our award from CSAC for the work done with StepUp.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Staff - We will be putting together two grant applications in the next few weeks; one to EDA to update the CEDS report and the other to CAWIB for Clusters of Opportunity. We are going to apply to update and do the regional work. We hired Jacqueline Dyer to begin on November 30th. She will be our new Economic Development Specialist; our fiscal position is still open.

4.2 Youth Council - We're in the middle of debriefing for the summer program. Did a 3-hour meeting last week and will conclude at the YPO meeting next week. Getting good feedback; trying to get solutions to some of the problems. Youth Council will be planning for the next year and into the future with or without ARRA funds. Surveying employers and getting their input as to how things went. Performance measures; did very well.

4.3 Job Market Operators - Lots going on. Job Market usage is up 35% over the past year. There has been a continuous slowing of job losses. Usage in general has gone up; clients are using services more. The Job Market is moving to a new integrated service model. They will be providing 12 or more new workshops and services by January. Additional stimulus funds are coming in; 148 new full time County jobs with benefits were just posted. Work Experience funds will end mid 2010; however, the County received over \$4,000,000. To qualify for these funds you must have at least one minor child and have to be under 200% poverty level which is around \$18,000 per year. *How many jobs on the private side?* As many jobs as can be filled.

5. **Announcements** - Jacqueline made the announcement that she is expecting in May; congratulations around the table. Intertribal gathering will be Saturday the 14th; some of our youth will be working there. Last year had 5000 people show up. Taste of Holidays coming up on the 19th.

6. **Close** - Meeting adjourned at 3:18