



Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 6, 2008 1:30 – 3:30
Prosperity! Center Conference Room
520 E Street, Eureka, CA

Minutes

Members Present: Cedar Reuben, Janet DePace, Terry Coltra, Maggie Gainer, Bob Sampson, Jon Sapper, John Woolley

Members Absent: None

Others Attending: Carol Hill, Jacqueline Debets, Jose Quezada and Sandy Alcaraz

1. OPENING

1.1 **Call to Order** – Meeting came to order at 1:35 pm

1.2 **Adjustments to the Agenda** - None

1.3 **Introductions** - None

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

3. DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEMS

3.1 **Minutes – Motion** made by Terry Coltra to accept minutes of last meeting, second by Janet DePace, motion carried.

3.2 **Membership – Motion** made by Terry Coltra to reverse automatic terminations for Bob Laffranchi and Liana Simpson, second by Janet DePace, so carried. Michael Kraft and/or Jeff Zander have been given applications for membership. It would be good to see if Zander is interested in coming on board. Traditionally the director of RREDC has been the WIB Board member. These members would be designated as Economic Development (public) WIB members. Maggie Gainer is going to retire in January, so that will open up a public sector spot. We're trying to go through the Central Labor Council to get more representation. We *can* appoint a steward from a union to the Full-WIB. Central Labor Council must nominate the appointment. John Woolley hasn't been able to present Targets of Opportunity to the Central Labor Council but is working on trying to accomplish this.

3.3 **Letter to Nancy Pelosi** – Letter is still out for comment by the Board. *What are the chances that we get more funds in? Is there a mention of Targets in the letter?* Not at this point. Suggestions made for staff to CC George Miller, Congressman Thompson, and BOS Chair with this letter. Congratulate them on their recent re-election. **Motion** made by John Woolley for Jacqueline to go ahead with the letter, second by Maggie Gainer, so carried. Members suggested that we put into writing

the difficulties regarding the quarterly allocation of dislocated worker funds to let them (Sacramento) know what is standing in our way of serving our dislocated workers.

3.4 Dislocated Worker Funding – We're pretty much maxed out with our funds. Possibly other funding sources could be used. We may be able to back-fill with Economic Development Trust Fund. We can only use funds available to us during the present quarter. We can't access money from the upcoming quarter. Possibly we can get hold of George Miller, see the staffer who handles this and find out if he/she can help us with this. The dollars come to the state in the same manner...quarterly. This has to do with appropriations from DOL. We need to make some inquiries and some noise on this one. This money was appropriated October of last year. Jacqueline doesn't have time to do this; Terry Coltra and John Woolley will help get this going. *What do we do for dislocated workers that come on now?* All our funds are obligated. We're in good position up through the last quarter with the timber grants that we have. Because Mervyns' and other retail stores are closing Jacqueline will be able to request Additional Assistance funds. Jacqueline heard that Mad River Community Hospital may close; Eureka Reporter is closing down on the 8th. Evergreen Pulp closure is covered by the current grant. *Is there a chain reaction happening from the closure of the pulp mill?* It has affected quite a few businesses. *What's Humboldt County's unemployment rate right now?* 6.4%, less than the rest of the state. We're working on a new Additional Assistance grant, if that doesn't happen then the other option is to move money from the Adult program into the Dislocated Worker program. This would greatly limit services to the WIA adult population. *What is the balance of the Adult Formula Funds?* Three to four hundred thousand dollars. We are prevented from going in and applying for additional funds when it comes to adults. There have been few layoffs in the area of Targets of Opportunity. It's mostly old industries; timber and housing. *Could we do some kind of report to see what's happened in the last 12 months with layoffs as it relates to the businesses in the target areas?* We'll work on that.

3.5 Targets and Occupations of Opportunity planning – A lot of work right now. Jacqueline is going to do a presentation to the Planning Commission tonight. Also would like to do the presentation to St. Joe's Board of Trustees. In addition to the SJHS Board, the SJHS Executive Leadership Committee would also be a good place to present. The Targets Advisory Committee that Joann Sapper put together in the Eel River was very helpful. Redwood Coast Energy Authority will be funding some

kind of solar installation program. *Any thoughts as to what we can put on Full WIB meeting agenda?* An analysis of where layoffs are happening would be good; if it's coherent with everything we have seen. Awareness of the Targets is getting out there. Possibly we can have lapel pins with "Ask me about opportunities" at the next Full WIB meeting. The robotics presentation was good; maybe have more of that type of item for future meetings. Ron Samuels from Marimba One might come in and talk with us as well as Steve O'Meara from Kokotat.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Staff – Jacqueline is currently writing a number of grants. We have a grant going out for Regional Innovations. She, along with CR, is working on a Community Based Job Training grant. This will include expansion in some existing programs, possibly a new program in physical therapy. It's expensive up front but not to maintain. The grant would also include construction and electrician certification, solar installation certification, welding and also a management component for every pipeline that can be applied to any industry. *Could Digital Pathways be attached to this in some way?* We don't have industry certification for Digital Pathways but that is definitely a possibility. People will travel from out of the area for training like this. This needs to work with HSU, CR and yet be able to connect with other entities. This is a 2 million dollar grant over 3 years. Money is coming from the Department of Labor. *How many awards will there be?* Not sure; Del Norte and Curry County each received one last year.

4.2 Youth Council - None

4.3 Job Market Operators - None

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

6. CLOSING – Meeting adjourned at 2:59