



Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

Friday • October 16, 2009 • 8:30 am - 10:30 am
Humboldt County Office of Education • Annex
901 Myrtle Avenue • Eureka, CA

DRAFT Minutes

Members Present: Emilia Bartolomeu, Terry Coltra, Ben Fewell, Ahn Fielding, John Frahm, Maggie Gainer, Evelyn Giddings, Linda Grimm, Mariann Hassler, Carol Hill, Mark Lovelace, Val Martinez, Libby Maynard, Jeff Nelson, Tina Nerat, Bryan Plumley, Cedar Reuben, Bob Sampson, Jon Sapper, Liana Simpson, Alison Talbott, and John Woolley

Members Absent: Helen Callahan, Maura Eastman, Barbara Groom, Randy Hansen, Michael Kraft, Bob Laffranchi, Barbara LaHaie, David Perry, Jerry Saner, James Smith, Sallie Speaker and Alex Stillman

Others Present: Bruce Alexander, Jeanette Arnot, Heidi Benzonelli, Laura Chancellor, Eden Chandler, Joe Davey, Jacqueline Debets, Michele Enenstein, Clarissa Handy, Michelle Hutchins, Connie Lorenzo, Sean McLaughlin, Nicole Morrow, Roxanne Remington, JoAnn Sapper, Christie Schmalzel, Donna Wheeler and Sandy Alcaraz

1. OPENING:

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- 1.1 Call to Order - Meeting came to order at 10:37
- 1.2 Self-introductions of WIB members, staff and public present - Introductions were made around the table
- 1.3 Adjustments to the Agenda - None

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: - None

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION

- 3.1 Consent Agenda - **Motion** made by Liana Simpson, second by Mark Lovelace to accept agenda consent items; so carried
- 3.2 2009-2010 Budget for Workforce – Last year was the lowest funding in the history of workforce funding until the stimulus hit in February; funding increased by 99%. Discretionary funds always come in after the beginning of the new fiscal year. We received 1.6 million in discretionary funds. Overall we're going into the year stronger than usual. In 09/10 we will be getting a little over a million more than what we received in 08/09. Our budget is already a million over what we had last year. DOL is pushing for another youth summer stimulus. Bob Sampson complimented the whole team for the work being done as well as grants over time that Jacqueline has brought in. Jacqueline recognized Nicole on her accounting and the hard work that she and Angie have done recently with two highly competitive grants. Our structure is different from most workforce groups in the state. Word is out about what's happening here in Humboldt County; success breeds success. *Is there any possibility that these funds could be reversed?* Congress could rescind mid year but Jacqueline doesn't see that lining up right now. We will be going after more Dislocated Worker grants. **Motion** made by Libby Maynard, second by Tina Nerat to accept the 09/10 budget as submitted; so carried.
- 3.3 StepUP for Youth Jobs panel and discussion – Took out-of-youth funding to produce a video magazine for KEET to introduce Job WISE (video shown). The youth on the panel

all participated in the summer StepUP program. Each panel member shared a one minute glimpse about what StepUP has done for them. *What are the ages of StepUp youth?* Fourteen to twenty-four years old. Work on the trail system at the Botanical Gardens is phenomenal; this work was done by StepUp youth. Evelyn Giddings and Umpqua bank sponsored a luncheon at the Ingamar club this summer. Some of these youth are now going to college. *What would you recommend to friends; how would you describe the program?* One panelist has recommended this program to many of her friends; “the program can help you get on your feet in uncertain times”. “Good resource for the community; a great way to get a job”. “The people involved in the program really care about what they’re doing”. “Everyone took such an interest in your life and your goals”. “This program was started on a shoestring by people who really cared; it’s great to hear these wonderful things”. “Somebody believed in me”. The WIB needs to recognize Terry Coltra and John Woolley as this program was their brainchild. This kind of program doesn’t happen overnight; it requires much work from everyone involved. Two hundred fifty-five youth were placed in jobs this summer. That exceeds the target from many metropolitan areas. 450 youth helped through the Job Market this summer alone. The Job Market and YEOP staff did a great deal to serve the volume of youth with work readiness workshops and other valuable services. *Do you feel you got a good sense of the business world?* Did you see anything from your experience that might benefit us (the Board) so we are prepared to move ahead into next year? There are many resources available to us; ones we were unaware of. The one, two and three day programs provided many different business owners to work with. Jacqueline acknowledged Laura, Nicole, Angie and all the YPO’s for working overtime from spring through the summer to make this program a success. Bob thanked these youth for sharing with us; they are great role models to friends and family.

4. BREAK

5. DISCUSSION & ACTION (continued)

- 5.1 Appreciation and thanks to Bob Sampson and Joe Davey - Bob Sampson presented Joe Davey with a plaque from the WIB congratulating him on his 30 years of service. “We wanted to honor him for his incredible contribution to the WIB”. He received a standing ovation! Joe expressed his thanks as well; “it’s great to see the kids here today and see that what you’ve worked for has come to fruition and made things happen. In the years to come there will be many challenges but good things have happened”. After one full WIB meeting and many years of service Bob Sampson will be leaving us. Jacqueline gave her thanks on behalf of the WIB and noted that we hate to see him go. Members of the WIB also showed their appreciation of the work that Bob has done. They all hope he will keep in touch and stay connected. Bob thanked everyone on the Board for allowing him to serve as Vice Chair and Chair although he laughingly stated that he chaired only one Full WIB meeting.
- 5.2 Headwaters Fund Initiative to Build Workforce presentation -The Headwaters \$25 million dollar fund has been divided into three groups; the grant fund, CIF fund, and the Revolving Loan Fund. For the first two or three years a number of grants were submitted to the Board. Instead of being responsive to grants coming in, what if the Board looked at taking an affirmative step or initiative to address something of importance in the community. *How do we accomplish this?* Jon Sapper brought 4 or 5 panels together and asked what is the area or issue where you would use this money to promote economic development? Number 1 item was that we couldn’t find a capable entry-level workforce. The cause seems to be a skills gap. Some related issues are the underground economy, the economic safety net that we’ve had for years is gone, 20% of HC youth do not complete high school and less than 50% of high school graduates receive additional training and education. We need to address this for the well being of the County. We need to begin with a multifaceted, multi year commitment to develop the

entry-level technical professional workforce. We need to grow our own; do it ourselves. We can't afford to import an entry-level workforce anymore. *How do we do this?* Use proven strategies; align education and training with local business, increase achievement and graduation rates (must address the drop out rate), increase the number of individuals receiving education and training beyond a high school level of education. We need to develop strategies and stick to those strategies. Key points of Jon's PowerPoint presentation follow:

- Why is it difficult for local employers to find qualified entry level employees? There is a skills gap and declining enrollment in local schools
- What do we need to do? Begin a multifaceted, multi-year commitment to develop the entry-level technical and professional workforce needed by local business and industry
- How do we do this? Use solid research proven strategies
- Three things need to be accomplished: better aligned education and training, increase achievement and graduation rates and increase the number of individuals receiving education and training beyond a high school level
- Research strongly shows that to increase achievement rates, completion rates and continuing education and training rates, we need to: set expectations early in life, involve parents, provide accurate career information and involve the community so it becomes a part of the culture

This has to be a community initiative. Five strategies have been developed; we will take a look at these strategies at some other time (meeting ran overtime). *What role would the WIB like to play?* This initiative has been named A Decade of Difference; the 2020 Initiative which will launch in approximately 45-60 days. Jacqueline will sit on the steering committee to provide oversight, guidance and monitoring for the initiative. This topic will be continued at the next Executive Committee and the next gathering of this group on December 11th.

5.3 Workgroup formation - There are several pots of ARRA funding coming into the community through different agencies, Department of Health and Human Services for subsidized employment to adults in the next year (80% will be paid by this funding, 20% by the employer), Redwood Community Action Agency for job counseling. We have the partnership of the Job Market; now we have some real funding. This will be able to help hundreds of people in the county. We're asking for people that might want to be a part of this workgroup. Liana Simpson, Donna Wheeler, Ahn Fielding would like someone as her designee. Others can contact Jacqueline to be included. **Motion** made by Ahn Fielding, second by Emilia Bartolomeu to approve the formation of the workgroup; so carried.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Unemployment rate in Humboldt County went down 1%; we're out performing the rest of the state. We want to thank Maggie Gainer for stepping up and taking over as Chair of the WIB.

7. **REPORTS** - None

8. **CLOSING** - Meeting adjourned at 10:41