

## 7. E.1 New Job Center Certification Requirements and Standards

In March 2005, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) began a planning process intended to update the State WIA Plan. As part of the process, DWD held a number of forums across the State to explain their vision for the workforce development system and job centers. Invited to the forums were workforce development area directors, W-2 directors, Job Service directors, DVR directors and technical college presidents. The forums were a way for DWD to explain the changes they expected to job center services and operations, and provided a way to obtain input from job center partners to their ideas.

DWD compiled the comments and information they received from the forums and organized two workgroups to develop new requirements for comprehensive job centers as well as new job center service standards. The workgroups met throughout the summer and early fall to develop the new job center requirements and standards. The vision for job centers of the future was outlined in two papers distributed by DWD on November 4, 2005. The two papers are – Certification Requirements for Comprehensive Job Centers (Attachment 1) and Job Center Service Standards (Attachment 2).

These new certification standards and service standards will impact the current job center service delivery system statewide and within southwest Wisconsin. Barb Tucker has coordinated SWWDB's response to these two documents. She will review both documents and share the concerns of SWWDB.

No action by the Board is required at this time. DWD will finalize the certification requirements and service standards by the end of December and then WDBs will be required to modify their local WIA Plan using these new requirements. A revised local plan will be due to DWD by approximately April 1<sup>st</sup>.