

SWWDB – PROGRAM OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

May 23, 2006

MINUTES

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Larsen, Chairperson

The Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (SWWDB) Program Operations Committee (POC) met on Tuesday, May 23, 2006 in the Community Room of Wisconsin Community Bank in Monroe. Attendance was as follows:

Members Present:	Ms. Cindy Harrington	Mr. Walter Orzechowski
	Mr. Tom Schraeder	
Members Excused:	Dr. Karen Knox	Mr. Scott Stocker
	Mr. Tom Larsen	Mr. Larry Ward
	Ms. Angie Skoubis	Ms. Margery Tibbetts
Others Present:	Mr. Bruce Palzkill	Ms. Mary Johannesen
	Mr. Chuck Anderson	Ms. Darla Burton
Staff Present:	Dr. Robert Borremans	Ms. Barb Tucker
	Ms. Shannon Moe	Ms. Annette Meudt
	Ms. Amy Charles	Ms. Stephanie Kerkenbush

Mr. Schraeder called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

1. **Younger Youth Programs (Information)**

SWWDB has contemplated how to link better with school systems and getting students ready to work. Ms. Tucker introduced Darla Burton from CESA #3 who presented a slideshow of the various programs offered through CESA #3 (on file).

CESA #3 covers 31 school districts and some districts from CESA #4. The programs that were discussed were as follows:

- *NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute)* – This program has 3rd party testing for employability skills and can deliver instant test results. Some schools have already used this program and it is a great benchmark for assessing what skills students need to address to be ready for work.
- *Reality Check* – This program combines career exploration with personal finance, and also connects businesses and schools. Crawford County is already utilizing the program, and the students really enjoy having the hands-on, real world experience. There are businesses that are asking to be involved in this program. It is similar to the game of “Life” and it’s a great learning experience.
- *Business and Education Summit* – This summit will feature Dr. Willard Daggett who speaks on topics such as globalization, trends, and preparing students for the workforce. This program is planned for October 12, 2006 in Mineral Point.
- *Workforce Investment Act* – WIA has a long history at CESA #3 and has an excellent track record. This program is one of the only opportunities for at-risk students in rural areas outside of school. Southwest Wisconsin does not offer opportunities like a YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, etc. therefore, the dollars provided through this program are extremely important to our rural school districts.

- *School to Work* – This program offers employment opportunities including CO-OP and youth apprenticeship. The program funding, however, has taken major cuts. These programs had more enrollments when CESA could offer stipends for training, transportation, etc.
- *Education for Employment* – Through this program, a mini business world was offered that served 50 students and involved 10 business coaches and 21 business donors.
- *Project Lead the Way (Rural Initiative)* – This is a national pre-engineering curriculum that does very well at attracting non traditional students into math and engineering courses. A consortium of five small schools has been formed in Southwest WI and each school offers at least one class along with distance learning opportunities. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville will offer the final digital class required by students. Project Lead the Way is only in its 2nd year. This project was presented at the national tech prep conference and is being considered for a possible national model. The courses are taught in an applied/hands-on manner. Articulation agreements have been formed with many area colleges to enable students taking Project Lead The Way courses to earn college credits.

The only question raised was if NOCTI is involved with the technical colleges and the answer is no.

2. Eligible Training Provider Program Applications (Action)

Ms. Tucker stated that when there is a request for an organization to be included on the State's eligible training provider list, all board members have an opportunity to review the application and recommend approval. Responses were received from Karen Knox, Jim Finley, Bruce Palzkill, Cindy Harrington, and Chuck Elliott. Each of these board members stated that they did not approve the Nurse Aid program for inclusion on the State's Eligible Training Provider List as it was currently presented. Individual comments are on file. One concern raised was the issue of acceptance of credit by the Technical College system if an individual wanted to further their education. SWWDB would not want to see a customer have to repeat the CNA training in order to complete an LPN or RN program. A second area of question was whether or not the Nurse Aid program proposed was approved by the Department of Health and Family Services.

Dr. Borremans stated that when the AFL-CIO LETC was going through the process for approval of medical coding, SWWDB agreed to use the instructor's prior experience and success to demonstrate effectiveness. Since this is a new program, it would have to operate for a year before success would be known. It would be the staff's recommendation that the POC not approve this program now.

Ms. Tucker stated that as of July 1, the State is requiring WDA's to provide training in careers that meet the high growth/high wage requirement and CNA's currently do not fall into that category. It would have to be a career ladder concept in order to allow WIA dollars to be spent on this training. Mr. Orzechowski stated that there is a significant demand for CNA's and there will always be. Perhaps the response should be 'no' right now but POC may consider the idea as more questions raised above are answered.

Dr. Borremans stated that because of action taken by SWWDB in 2001, the POC has authority from the Board, therefore formal action is not taken at the Board meeting, just reported. **Mr. Orzechowski moved to say no at this time until further clarification of the program is known to us, and SWWDB would encourage a career ladder**

approach rather than what's been presented. Ms. Harrington seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Program Operators Performance (Information)

Ms. Moe presented Enclosure 3, a breakdown of the Program Operators Performance. Job Service SW Youth enrollment is right on target, however their entered employment is a little low. For Job Service SW Adult, there are some troubled areas. The actual number that entered employment is way below what was planned. Mr. Palzkill stated that there is a direct correlation between the entered employment numbers and the number of people still in training. In the youth program, 25 of 31 are in training, and 15 of those will graduate this month. He fully expects to see the number of placements increase due to the high exiting due to completion of training. JS Rock youth appears to be right on target, if not exceeding. JS Rock Adult is also on target, if not exceeding. CESA #2 is at 60% of planned employment and 50% of diploma rate. CESA #3 youth is at 122% of planned enrollments. The numbers for AFL-CIO LETC project were low across all areas except spending. Mr. Anderson stated that for AFL –CIO, they have been affected by the number of people seeking services with temporary agencies. He indicated that once people sign with a temporary service, they will not qualify for dislocated worker services if they become unemployed after placement. AFL-CIO anticipates more placements as the school year ends. For Dislocated Workers, there is more competition out there, and people need to get back into the workforce. Technical colleges limit enrollments to twice a year. However, dislocated workers can't wait around that long. The majority of people are in training and it is taking longer, and adult learners may go a year and half instead of a year. Mr. Palzkill stated that for Job Service dislocated worker program, the number that is planned to be served will be served.

Ms. Tucker stated that the SWWDB has a long history of meeting the DOL performance standards. This has occurred because performance is based on the number of people exited from the program and not on the number being served. It doesn't matter how many people are served initially, what matters is what happens after they exit the program. With the new 35% funding requirement for training in high wage/high growth careers, there will conceivably be less people enrolled in training components. With less people in training, there may be more need for intensive case managed services. It may be difficult to provide good intensive services to a large amount of people, and therefore, a realistic number to be served needs to be identified. As the number of people enrolled declines, the margin of error also decreases for the number of clients who can leave the program unsuccessfully without affecting our performance. Consequently, Program Operators will need to be held accountable for their planned enrollment levels. With this in mind, SWWDB is asking program operators to do more case managed services such as career laddering, and financial literacy but with a smaller number of people.

Enclosure 3A shows the Outcome and Expenditures Comparison. Dr. Borremans stated that SWWDB has lost 20% of its' funding over the last 3 years, which comes out to about a third of the funding the agency received in 2002. Southwest Wisconsin is somewhat economically depressed, and there has to be good jobs out there so people can exit and ultimately have the program meet performance standards. Wages also have to meet WIA performance levels. Dr. Borremans stated that SWWDB is still exceeding 16 of the 17 performance measures set forth by the State.

4. Contracts for 2006-2007 WIA Program (Action)

Dr. Borremans wanted to defer this agenda item. Preliminary allocations had come in from

the State on Friday, May 12. However, Dr. Borremans received an email today stating that the allocations were wrong and that SWWDB would be receiving new allocations tentatively on Friday, May 26. Ms. Harrington asked if the formula for the allocations is based on unemployment rates. The answer is yes, and it is also based on long term unemployment and the poverty rate. Ms. Harrington asked if dislocated workers have to be placed in Southwest Wisconsin. The answer is no, it does not matter where the location of the placement is. The WIA Program Contracts will be presented to full board at the June 14, 2006 meeting.

5. **Adjournment**

Ms. Harrington moved and Mr. Orzechowski seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting of the POC is scheduled for July 18, 2006 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. via conference call.