

ENCLOSURE 5, Attachment 2

Department of Workforce Development
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State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Jim Doyle, Governor
Roberta Gassman, Secretary
Ron Danowski, Division Administrator

July 6, 2007

Robert T. Borremans, Ed.D., Executive Director
Southwest WI Workforce Development Board (SWWDB)
1370 N. Water Street
P.O. Box 656
Platteville, WI 53818-0656

Dear Dr. Borremans:

I am writing today to express my concerns and disappointment at the recent action taken by the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board to create a structure that allows the board to be a service provider. As you and many of your board members are aware, this was not the intent of the Workforce Investment Act and in fact contradicts the intended role of the local workforce board to oversee the service delivery system, not also be a provider within the same system.

The transformation from the Job Training Partnership Act to the Workforce Investment Act was a painful process for the SWWDB but the organization embraced the new challenge and implemented WIA within the spirit of that law. Since that time your WIA performance has been exemplary, more often than not exceeding performance measures and the services delivered by the contracted partner agencies have made service delivery in Southwest Wisconsin one of the shining stars in the state. With that history, it is difficult to understand why your board is choosing a course that is of such questionable necessity.

I am aware that other boards have chosen to go this direction in the past and DWD has remained silent, allowing this to be a solely local decision. Given the confusion created by these circumstances, I am taking a slightly more involved approach to these situations. First, I am expressing my disappointment in this letter, and second, in sharing my expectations if you choose to continue on this course.

There must be a distinct and clear separation of the Board from the service delivery entity, often times referred to as a "firewall." This will mean no overlapping board membership and not having the same director for both entities. DWD monitoring will include reviewing documentation of the separation.

The procurement process for selection of service providers must be fair and open with no apparent conflict of interest. It would be inappropriate for the same organization to develop, issue, respond to and evaluate requests for service providers. I recommend you consider a neutral, third party administrator for the process.

I also expect that branding of the SWWDB and the new corporate entity be significantly different.

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If you would like to talk further about this, I would be happy to meet with you, and/or attend a future Board meeting and have a full discussion with your board on these issues.

Sincerely,



Ron Danowski
Division Administrator

cc: Scott Stocker, SWWDB Board Chair
Ann Greenheck, Chief Local Elected Official

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.**