

Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m

Location: Rock County Job Center

Present: Bob Borremans, James Otterstein, Mary Frederick, Bud Gayhart, Josh Smith, Lisa Furseth, Janine Peterson, Gregg Bosak (recording). Also present were guests Andrew Peterson and Lisa Brown with Hospice Care

Following introductions and a background description by Bob of how the proposed *Coping With Job Loss: The Grieving Process* workshop came about, Andrew Peterson, Manager of Community Outreach with Hospice Care, and Lisa Brown from the local Hospice Care group reviewed what they were considering as the format and agenda for the May 26 session set for the Job Center. While the workshop is still a work-in-progress, the title might be *Creating The Future: Life After Job Loss*. There would be a keynote speaker, four break-out sessions of about 1 ½ hours each with lunch provided. Wrapped around the lunch Andrew desired local organizations to have information tables—a resource fair. He is currently working with Mercy Options for assistance.

Discussion ensued on whether attempts should be made to invite those that might benefit most from this type of workshop, or whether it should be an open invitation process. Consensus was that identification of those needing the workshop would be difficult. Janine added she felt it might be beneficial if short surveys were completed by those attending. Mary felt the word(s) “grief” or “grieving” should not be used in the title or when describing the program purpose. James thought perhaps a title like *Coping With Changes: Transitioning and Moving Forward* might be appropriate. He also felt that sending information to help publicize through family, friends, churches, social networks, etc. might help bring individuals, spouses, and families to the session. Janine added child care providers, schools and similar groups would be good publicity resources. The fact that it is the day after Memorial Day might conflict with attendance. The consensus was that even if there aren’t as many people as originally anticipated (150), if it has good content and offers tangible assistance and resources, subsequent workshops would help it to grow just via word-of-mouth. Mary added we needed to keep in mind the philosophy of potential participants asking “What’s in it for me?” She will be seeing almost all of the former GM workers on April 20th—if Andrew can get a flyer to her prior to then, she can get those flyers to them.

James emphasized that we need to make our steps both small and “digestible”—to get some concrete successes. We need actionable outcomes. He designed a brief flow chart of needs of the unemployed (See Figure 1).

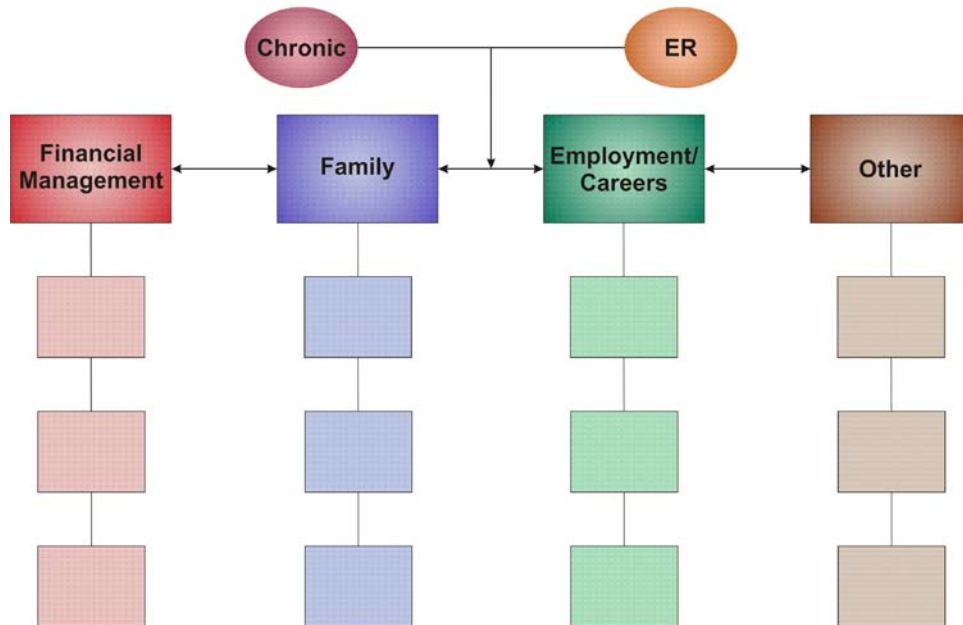
Bob mentioned that Kent Kleiva has developed a draft of an on-line community communication process for dislocated workers. Larry Molnar met with representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor last week and they expressed possible interest in the concept and would entertain additional information. Larry will be in Janesville next Monday (April 13) to meet with the group to discuss next steps with the committee and continue developing on-line community proposal.

Bob asked whether we needed additional membership on the Steering Team to help supplement needs. Mary indicated we might consider representatives of the two Senators (Feingold and Kohl) and

Representative Ryan. Bob cautioned against the committee becoming too “political.” James indicated that the group was large enough and we could bring additional people in as needed.

Figure 1

Blueprint for Transition



James articulated five occupational growth areas his ED group has identified for the next five years for the area: health care, plastics, logistics, advanced manufacturing, food processing, and value-added agriculture. He felt we needed to address immediate (short-term) needs (six months) and longer-term several years. Bob listed several categories which will be formed into a matrix with timelines, responsibilities, etc. They include the following:

- Financial Management—
 - Building Foreclosure Counseling Capacity
 - Foreclosure Mediation
 - Consumer Credit
 - Financial Management—both individual and small business

- Family
 - Child Care
 - Elder Care
 - Education/School-Related
 - Stress Management
 - Counseling
 - Transportation
 - Domestic—gangs, truancy, drugs/AODA/substance abuse, etc.

- Employment/Career
 - Sector Strategies
 - Staying or Leaving

- Career Counseling/JobFit
- Compensation/Benefits
- Redeveloping the Person/Employee—Strengths
- Training—More Flexible Opportunities
- Facility Options
- Flexible Funding Programs

Mary mentioned several of the training tools GM had available and used and were now at the GM locations but not being used (wooden cars, leadership training materials, etc.). Lisa Furseth mentioned an interest in these. Discussion centered on the possibility of writing a proposal whereby these items could be utilized and developed into resources used in six-week classes at various locations (e.g., Eclipse Center, UAW Hall, etc.) to help all dislocated workers. Mary and others will meet with Larry next Monday to determine grant request feasibility.

Those available and having questions or needing assistance will try to meet with Larry Molnar next Monday (April 13) starting at 10:30 a.m. at the North Rock County United Way Building. The meeting concluded at 11:15 a.m.