

Meeting Notes

Date: 4-13-09, 10:30 a.m.

Location: North Rock County United Way

RE: Meeting with Larry Molnar

The following CORD members and others were present: John Pearce, Janine Peterson, Gail Graham, Josh Smith, Lisa Furseth, John Pfleiderer, Executive Director of Family Services, Bob Borremans, Mary Penny, and Gregg Bosak (recording), along with Larry Molnar.

Larry provided an overview of recent developments regarding federal agencies and funding/grant possibilities. He has been in Washington, D.C. quite often in recent weeks, and has had a chance to meet with staff members of Senators Kohl and Feingold and Representatives Ryan and Baldwin to help raise their awareness of CORD's efforts and the CEAP program. He described his meetings with Ed Montgomery, an Obama appointee who comes from the labor/worker perspective rather than management, and Guy Gilbert, Workforce Investment Act administrator who was referred to Larry by Kent Kleiva. The grant emphasis still needs to be on workforce development and re-training, needs to be brief (two pages or less) and should avoid the use of the term "sole sourced" in the description.

Lisa, Janine and John Pleiderer discussed their efforts in ways to help build capacity for financial services, not only short-term, but long-term.

Bob and Larry discussed the possibility of bring more members to the CORD group, obtaining more input and possible sharing of information from the economic development sector (see last sentence of this paragraph), and keeping the momentum moving forward. The draft grant proposal for creating an on-line community for career and life services was distributed. In addition, utilizing resources currently not being used such as those at the idle GM plant, ropes course materials, welding stations, and actual facilities was discussed, along with whether purchase or lease options were the best course of action. Most agencies do not require any matching funds, although one agency does, and in that case, the proposal request should include asking for a "match waiver." Larry mentioned that a key to receiving any money from the EDA out of Chicago is for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) to be "given a blessing" by the feds.

The possibility of working with schools for AODA and other counseling services was discussed. Josh mentioned that the county, in cooperation with the schools, will be applying for a grant. To help bring the educational sector to the program, Bob will talk to Heidi Carvin (Evansville) and Gary Albrecht (CESA 2) while Gail will talk to Karen Schulte to see if a more regional, comprehensive proposal may be a possibility. The four main areas CORD will be centering on in an attempt to obtain grants/resources will be:

- On-Line Community Services
- Financial Counseling and Assistance
- Housing
- Community-Based Education/Training and Schools

The meeting ended at 12:15 p.m.