

## Meeting Notes

**Date:** 8-11-09, 9 a.m.

**Location:** Room HS27, University of Wisconsin-Rock County

**RE:** CORD Steering Committee Meeting

The following CORD Steering Team members and others were present: Eric Kuznacic (presiding), Martha Pearson (YWCA), Nikki Schoeny (UW-Rock County), Josh Smith, Bud Gayhart, Sue Conley, Jim Stickels, Carrie Hermanson, Mary Fanning-Penny, and Gregg Bosak (recording)

Eric announced that we now have Twitter and Facebook sites, with their addresses both listed in the memo that was sent with the agenda for this meeting. He asked that he'd like to see these promoted plus anyone can add them to your "favorites" icon. He said you can also go to the CORD page at the SWWDN web site ([www.swwdb.org](http://www.swwdb.org)) to access it. The subject of the proliferation of twittering and Facebook has caused tremendous amount of unsolicited e-mails in some instances. Some organizations do not allow either to be used. Bud mentioned that perhaps the children of dislocated workers can help their parents to utilize Twitter and Facebook. The United Way Youth group Live United will be utilized when schools convene in a few weeks. The possibility of using United Way's ability to correspond with K-8 students was also mentioned as a possibility to reach young people to assist adults in utilizing these programs.

Eric next told of his efforts in working with Lisa Brown of HospiceCare to provide community information sessions dealing with topics such as Grieving/Dealing with Job Loss. Others such as Finance/Mortgage topics (utilizing Blackhawk Community Credit Union personnel and Consumer Credit Counseling staff), and Job Search techniques are also being planned. All-State Insurance was also mentioned as a possible resource. Martha mentioned they (YWCA) are planning workshops dealing with how workers can maximize transferable skills. Bud mentioned Joan Lloyd (who writes columns for the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel) has a CAR program—Challenge, Approach and Results that could be very effective. Eric will consider those options when developing his programs.

CORD members are invited to attend any Java and Jobs sessions held at 10:30 a.m. on Fridays at the Job Center Annex, as long as there aren't too many to overwhelm/discourage those participating. The sessions have been very beneficial thus far.

Community Action has received stimulus dollars to support a Mobile Resource Advocacy program which takes resources out to outlying areas to provide direct, one-on-one resources for the unemployed in their job searches. They are travelling to sites in both Rock and Walworth Counties, with the staff person helping to develop action plans for the unemployed. Plans are that it will be at the Job Center Annex in mid-October.

Bud reported on progress with E-Hub. Mark Burwell will be the initial facilitator. He's using the McDonald's model, whereby those utilizing the service will find it to always be the same. Plans call for a launch date (exact date TBA) on a Wednesday afternoon in Janesville and a Thursday morning in Beloit in October. Formerly titled the Urban Funnel, this will be the early stages of the funnel, for both the nascent as well as those who may have been in business for a period of time. There is a cost involved but it can be paid forward.

Gregg gave a history of and reviewed the Rock County Regional Profile. There has been a lag factor on the data since it was compiled in January/February, 2009. Additions might include foreclosure information, updated numbers, unemployment figures, home sale figures and value losses, etc. Also photos should be updated/improved. The concept of keeping it as an information document for the possible visit of Ed Montgomery rather than a piece that is "politically correct" by including "sales" information and including every community to appease political pressures was discussed. Gregg will work on it to update it. Those having changes or ideas can forward them to Gregg at [g.bosak@jobcenter.org](mailto:g.bosak@jobcenter.org).

The idea of inviting legislators to the next meeting was discussed and approved. They (or their aides) will be invited.

There will be a meeting of the major health care providers at BTC on August 18 to discuss the county-wide needs assessment and actions to be taken as a result (how individuals/organizations can help, gaps in services, etc.) Following the meeting “tier two” providers (counselors, school officials, etc.) will be informed of how they can assist. Since Health Care is so broad, it was difficult to determine what should be include and what not. For example, insurance will be a component, but it also could be in the financial category. However, since many changes in insurance may be coming on the federal level, they may stick more with local issues and needs.

Janine was not present to give an update on the Financial Committee’s progress. It was mentioned that two community persons/volunteers have stepped forward to help. They will be screened before they are added to the group.

Mary mentioned that the Arrowhead Library System and Hedberg Library will be submitting a grant request for \$20,000 to allow for computer outreach access. CORD/Mary is providing a letter of support. Also provided through the grant will be continuing education opportunities for the library staff. The grant will assist in working with the impoverished, provide coping skills, and help participants to “reinvent” themselves and have realistic expectations.

Eric reviewed the John Doe Movement program he attended last week in Beloit. It was quite lengthy, with the last portion being the main crux of it. They are asking for \$10 a month from all Rock County residents, plus they will be working with area churches and organizations to try to obtain commitments. Eric mentioned we would keep monitoring their progress and help where appropriate a feasible.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.