

Meeting Notes

Date: 9-29-09, 9 a.m.

Location: Room H, Rock County Job Center

RE: CORD Steering Committee Meeting

The following CORD Steering Team members were present: Bob Borremans (presiding), Bud Gayhart, Lisa Furseth, Yuri Rashkin, Eric Kuznacic, Gregg Bosak (recording)

The group discussed dwindling attendance at meetings and the possibility of phasing back the number of meetings, possibly monthly, and alternate ways to 'check in' and report on progress being made. Lisa thought perhaps changing the model and priorities might help to re-direct and focus efforts. It was determined that the entire CORD Working Group, including legislative representatives, will meet on Tuesday, November 3 at 9 a.m. to determine the future plans and initiatives of CORD, along with other pertinent agendas items. Bob will also provide a state-of-the-state message.

The group reviewed the Rock County Profile document e-mailed in PDF format to all committee members. Several suggestions for changes were made, including changing the description on a chart/graph, adding sub-category headings on pages 11-12 for Janesville and Beloit, and upgrading the language and descriptions in the major portions of text, such as on page 16, to make it seem less 'choppy' and to include collaborative efforts and major community resources that might not have been included. Also a brief section on secondary schools will be included in the education section. Gregg will send out a revised version when he has it updated.

Bob described the background and current status of our invitation to Ed Montgomery to come to Janesville/Rock County. There were three main invitations made, through Danyell Tremmel/Representative Ryan's office, through the Governor's office, and through a contact we've had with Montgomery through Monster.com. To date, there has been no response.

When the larger CORD group convenes on November 3, part of the discussion will center on SWWDB funding sources being exhausted for dislocated workers. The SWWDB/Job Center is going to a process of having new clients in some instances being placed on waiting lists due to lack of funding sources. The Job Center has served 2,700 people so far this year, with more than 7,000 in Janesville and the region still not having registered and going through assessment. Since the SWWDB has lost about 40% of its funding, much of that going to states like Nevada, Arizona, Florida and others due to a 'flawed' funding formula, we are in a situation where funding will soon be exhausted. A large group of eligible unemployed are anticipated to register soon when unemployment benefits run out. This funding dilemma will be covered by Bob at the November 3 meeting.

Bud discussed the kick-off of E-Hub in October in Janesville and Beloit. He said they still need to get a feel for the audience, with marketing efforts being implemented as we speak. The local effort will be used as a model for a potential statewide implementation of E-Hub. The SWWDB is focusing on dislocated workers, with partial support coming from the SWWDB with a payback plan for those completing the program. Not only are possible new businesses a part of the program focus, but also incumbent or nascent businesses desiring to grow and succeed. Eric mentioned a possible joint venture with the *Janesville Gazette* whereby advertising packages for successful participants could be offered. This is still under development.

Eric mentioned that he is currently working on a WIRED Grant proposal (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) to help expand the E-Hub efforts between now and June 30, 2010. There are no extensions allowed on the due date for the grant, which is this Thursday, so Eric will be spending much time completing that grant.

The Virtual Community project is moving forward. Monster.com brought in a group from Indiana to write a grant to help fund the initiative. That proposal is now being finalized. They have met with Brad Lichtenstein, who is moving forward and actually has started taping for his project. PBS-Wisconsin has received approval from TV program *FrontLine* to purchase cameras for the participants to move forward.

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m. The next meeting of the larger overall CORD Committee will be Tuesday, November 3 at 9 a.m. in room D/E at the Rock County Job Center.