

## Meeting Notes

**Date:** Tuesday, January 5, 2010, 9:00 a.m

**Location:** Rock County Job Center, Room D/E

**Present:** Bob Borremans (presiding), James Otterstein, Mary Frederick, Kaia Fowler, Josh Smith, Lisa Furseth, Katie Crawley, Cindy Kiesling, Carol Kohl, Eric Kuznacic, Katie Kuznacic, Danyell Tremmell, Vic Grassman, Russ Podzilni, Josh Smith, Mary Fanning-Penny, Mary Buelow, John Dohner, Jr., Gail Graham, Marge Hallenbeck, Randy Upton, and Gregg Bosak (recording).

Following introductions, Bob reviewed the progress made thus far on the upcoming Dr. Ed Montgomery visit, and how Larry Molnar, with the Community Economic Adjustment Program (CEAP) at the University of Michigan, was involved. Bob mentioned there were three levels of participation Dr. Montgomery offered via his community visits—1. Mostly just himself appearing; 2. Bringing a small contingent with him; or 3. Bringing a larger group. Bob was not yet sure which this visit will bring. However, it will almost surely be on a Monday or Friday in late January or early February. Dr. Montgomery's office will be coordinating through the Governor's office to coordinate efforts. We're not yet sure of our overall role yet, but his visit also appears to include a stop in Kenosha. Both Katie Crawley and Danyell Tremmell have been in touch with Montgomery's office.

Larry Molnar and Kristen Cunningham next joined us on a conference call. Following some background information from Bob, Larry mentioned that he had met with Montgomery and his staff persons Teno Villareal at the end of November, which seemed to generate the increased interest in visiting us. Larry said the second level of participation is most likely—Montgomery visiting with a small contingent. Larry said he has been to handful of these and they're almost always listening sessions. Larry said he would advise that our key stakeholders be involved with determining what is occurring and what our critical needs are. The more concrete we can be in our 'ask,' the better. Larry has been to 15-20 communities and has heard the same from almost all of them—complaints. He sees suggestions for concrete solutions and proposals as the best way to proceed. Kristin said many of those proposals are already identified by the CORD group, including the transitional jobs program, dislocated workers in financial distress, and the PBS technology project.

Larry said we need to be innovative, by proposing methods to get people working. If there are no jobs available, what can we get them to do? Bob mentioned we need to identify contractors (even from the private sector) to employ people, similar to the former Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) program. Another might be supplemental assistance for families who've lost income and gone through foreclosure and can't meet income guidelines to receive government assistance or supplemental mortgage payments. Mary Frederick mentioned again that we need to work through our legislators to get the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac three-year income-based guidelines changed to help those do not qualify but truly should.

We will try to get Montgomery to come in the morning rather than afternoon. Suggestions for the program included a tour of the Job Center and a virtual tour of the area/community. The federal departments most likely to accompany Montgomery would be the EDA, EPA, Labor, Energy, HUD and HHS. We need to limit the number of people that present—the more involved the more diluted the presentation becomes. We need a clear, concise, focused message. We also need to work with our legislators who serve on possibly key committees: Tammy Baldwin on Energy and Commerce, Paul Ryan on Budget and Ways and Means, Herb Kohl

on Appropriations and HUD, and Russ Feingold on Budget. Their offices need to be 'up-to-speed' on our proposals and to help keep them moving forward. We also need to develop a short list of people that will present to Montgomery. Since it appears this will go through the Governor's office, we will attempt to work through them. Katie Kuznacic said she would assist through Mike Sheridan's office. Larry reminded us that there will be a heavy security presence plus a plethora of media. The Governor's office will probably issue a news release but we may want to have our own to distribute.

The question arose what happens after the event? Larry said most of the time nothing, since Montgomery has no budget himself; however, he can be an effective advocate as he can communicate directly with agencies. Larry said we're fortunate in that most communities he has visited did not have as much time as we are anticipating, plus this will be his first visit with any community with anticipated representatives along.

After Larry/Kristen left the conference call, Mary Fanning-Penny said we should provide the Governor's office with our proposed agenda and main speaking points to help 'steer' them in the direction we desire. James shared some of the documents his regional economic development group presented to the Department of Commerce several months ago. It was specific and concise with aggressive follow-up to help facilitate their 'ask.' He said there was no politics involved. Mary B. indicated she felt having personal stories/testimonials was important to include, but need to be carefully chosen. Mary Fanning-Penny suggested a synopsis of Brad Lichtenstein's TV video. Lisa felt we should brainstorm the elements to include and then turn it over to a small committee to work on. James shared his group's topics:

- Plant closings
- Unemployment
- Real estate vacancies
- Bankruptcies & foreclosures
- Community and organizational impact
- Natural disaster cleanups
- Fragile economic and psychological landscapes

His agenda included a background review, the plan, which included both economical and human/social elements, and what we need. They supplied for follow-up detailed support documents, on-going communication and a point of contact.

A group/subcommittee was identified to work on the elements of the presentation to Dr. Montgomery. Included are James Otterstein, Gail Graham, Josh Smith, Katie Crawley, and Katie Kuznacic, along with a SWWDB member. They will meet on Monday, January 11, at 1 p.m. at the Job Center.

Next Bob mentioned the how the Service Provider Summit evolved. Gregg shared the agenda for the day, which includes an overview of CORD and its resources, more specifically the now-interactive *Matrix for Transition* in the first section of the program. That will be followed by dividing into groups by services such as job-related, child care, education/literacy/computer skills, counseling, financial, health-related, housing, food and nutrition, and other. The groups will be determined partially by the number of people pre-registering for the summit. Those sessions will be led by a facilitator and reported out at the end of the summit. Gregg indicated he needed facilitators. Mary Fanning-Penny recommended the facilitators meet prior to the 9 a.m. start. The facilitators will convene at 8 a.m. to review their responsibilities. If facilitators cannot be located, they will be asked to help. Also media is being invited. Those who have clients who may provide a positive testimonial as to the services received are asked to share their contact info with Gregg.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

