

## Meeting Notes

**Date:** 2-2-10, 9 a.m.

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

**RE:** CORD Group Meeting

The following CORD Steering Team members were present:

- Bob Borremans, Executive Director, Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (SWWDB), (presiding)
- Carrie Hermanson, Director, University Relations, UW-Rock County
- Lisa Furseth, Executive Director, Community Action Program
- Gail Graham, Executive Director, United Way of North Rock County
- Mary Frederick, UAW/GM Representative
- Josh Smith, Assistant Administrator, Rock County
- Julie Funk, AFL-CIO LETC Project Coordinator
- Vic Grassman, Economic Development Agency, City of Janesville
- Amy Loudenbeck, Greater Beloit Area Chamber of Commerce, Beloit
- James Otterstein, Economic Development Manager, Rock County Planning and Development
- Russ Podzilni, Chair, Rock County Board of Supervisors
- Mary Buelow, Head of Reference & Adult Services, Hedberg Public Library
- Yuri Rashkin, Janesville City Council
- Kaia Fowler, UW-Whitewater Small Business Development Center
- Gregg Bosak, Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, (recording)

Bob started the meeting explaining where we at in regard to the pending Dr. Ed Montgomery visit. He indicated the visit is still planned but there is still no official date set. He had communicated with Teno Villareal, who congratulated us on the extension of the National Emergency Grant, who said he'd be in touch soon. But Teno has not yet responded. Indications are that that it should be at the end of February/beginning of March.

Lisa mentioned that the news just reported that 104,000 people in Wisconsin will have their unemployment run out this coming year. Bob said he'd speak with Lisa as he had not yet received that information. Mary Buelow though perhaps a graph could be added to the PowerPoint presentation with information including the number of evictions for renters.

Next James shared his insight regarding Rock 5.0's priorities. Rock 5.0 is attempting to increase collaboration, connections, and communications. Their priorities include a number of initiatives, but the four major items include: 1. real estate certification; 2. workforce identification (cost of doing business); 3. targeted outreach; and 4. customer diversification assessments.

Next Gregg discussed the Service Provider Summit and shared a list of participants and those interested that couldn't/didn't attend. He also shared the list of problem areas/gaps and successes/potential collaborations within each of the five subgroups, and briefly covered the overall conclusions, including needs/gaps, and opportunities/successes. Gregg asked for reaction from those that attended and what the next steps might be.

Gail indicated the financial group was continuing to meet and in fact, had a meeting today (Feb. 2) bringing all of the parties together. She said her group learned a lot from each other. It was mentioned that many unemployed are needing help for referrals to mental health providers. Kaia mentioned she was looking for assistance on how to

access extra funds for small businesses. Gail said she would mention that to her group meeting today. James mentioned Rock 5.0 will be addressing this issue, and is in the process of planning forums on how small businesses can manage these funding issues.

It was decided that Gregg will share this information with the participants, however, with four proposals already being developed, CORD will not become involved in any new initiatives. However, should any of the participants in the Summit desire to continue to meet and/or develop cooperative programs, they would be welcome to do so. The results of the Summit will be added to the Montgomery materials being prepared, as appropriate, and also added to the second year of the *Blueprint for Transition: Action Matrix*.

Next the four proposals were discussed. All will be shared with participants when they are finalized. Gail explained how the Digital Nation project has moved forward very well, much through the efforts of Monster and Brad Lichtenstein and his staff. Their proposal is close to being down to two pages in length. Lisa described the Mortgage Foreclosure project, which centers more on long-term solutions for those in trouble. The central portion is to address staffing increases to provide improved access to credit counseling. Eric Kuznacic described the Transitional Jobs project as a means to create jobs in industries where jobs can be maintained (not a short-term solution). The target is to create at least 1,200 jobs at a minimum of \$12 per hour for at least six months, gradually phasing it down in hopes that they will be hired by the company, with incentives for creating long-term job growth. Their information will be shared with the Economic Development group for their input. The project for Workforce Development Services received a boost when it was announced the NEG Grant would be extended. However, there is still a state plan calling for allocation replenishment being developed. Our group is still working on obtaining funding for 500-1,000 persons, since 8,000-8,500 persons are still unemployed in Wisconsin.

Russ Podzilni suggested a 'Cheat Sheet' be developed for organizations to use to access community resources.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.