

## Meeting Notes

**Date:** 3-2-2010, 9 a.m.

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

**RE:** CORD Steering Committee Meeting

The following CORD Steering Team members and others were present: Bob Borremans (presiding), Gail Graham, Mary Buelow, Katie Crawley, Sue Conley, Russ Podzilni, Mary Frederick, Jim Stickels, John Ramstad, Kent Kleiva, Eric Kuznacic, Julie Funk, Carrie Hermanson, Vic Grassman, Andrew Janke, Kaia Fowler, Danyell Tremmell, Yuri Rashkin, Kent Kleiva and Gregg Bosak (recording).

Bob announced that Josh Smith will be assuming a new position with the UW System in Madison. The group wished Josh well and indicated his input and expertise will be sorely missed.

Since James was unable to attend, Bob reviewed information James shared as a result of the Economic Development Alliance and initiatives being advanced. They were categorized into themes of collaboration, communication, and connections. Key points include five areas—business retention and expansion, business investment and attraction, entrepreneurship and small business, real estate, and workforce. Vic and Andrew mentioned programs they are developing which assist small businesses, and that Andrew is building a database, having already completed the interviewing of 32 businesses. He also spoke about program being developed with assistance from the Rock 5.0 program offering rewards for business plan contest leading to job creation. Bob and Kaia mentioned the E-Hub program.

Next Gail spoke about the Financial Group meeting and how they have increased capacity and space to allow for 3-4 part-time counselors to meet with clients at expanded times, but that increased capacity was still needed. They are seeking funding from financial institutions and others. The proposal was developed by the Consumer Credit Counseling program along with Community Action.

Bob described the Digital Nation efforts and how it may expand from a local project to potentially a regional or national prototype. Kent described how Monster.com became involved and has assisted, indicating it is a high-level priority within Monster. The main emphasis is providing proactive workforce promotion which can be a model for other locations. Bob mentioned a proposal was submitted yesterday (March 1) through Senator Kohl's office.

Bob mentioned there were actually two Workers4U versions. One is for the presentation when Dr. Montgomery comes, which offers businesses full-wage reimbursement for six months and partial-wage reimbursement for three months. Following nine months the employer would cover the wages. While the \$12.7 million price tag may seem hefty, during that time period the cost in unemployment benefits would be \$9.4 million—so the actual cost would be slightly over \$3 million, which doesn't include multiplier effects. Larry Molnar is also developing a similar but separate proposal which includes much in the 'green jobs' realm—with 200 of the jobs being in weatherization/alternative energy. The focus would be on weatherization programs through Community Action and weatherizing not-for-profit facilities. Larry was in Washington D.C. last week promoting the proposal.

Bob indicated his concern that the Montgomery visit situation is taking so long.

Following a review by Gregg of the proposed PowerPoint outline for Dr. Montgomery's visit, the Service Provider Summit results were reviewed. Bob asked what our next steps might be, and how we can include the major conclusions into the Transition Matrix Plan. The education group (Carrie and Mary B.) indicated that they had already partnered on several of the topics they had discussed, as has the financial group. Sue questioned that since many of the conclusion

points were repeats of what are already a part of the Matrix, if perhaps it might not be more productive to re-convene the groups to develop action steps addressing their conclusions. Jim indicated he felt the groups needed to work cooperatively to help increase capacity and get to the next level. It was felt an outside facilitator may help to get to that level. Time to meet was listed as a major debilitating factor. It was determined we would obtain suggestions and ideas, and then try to re-convene the groups as appropriate.

There being no further business, the session concluded at 10:30 a.m.