

Meeting Notes

Date: 5-4-2010, 9 a.m.

Location: Rock County Job Center, Rm. D/E

RE: CORD Steering Committee Meeting

The following CORD Steering Team members and others were present: Bob Borremans and Linda Fowler, both via phone conference; Sue Conley, Darcy Luoma, Katie Crawley, Lisa Furseth, Vic Grassman, Sharon Kennedy, Gail Graham, Jim Stickels, Eric Kuznacic, Gregg Bosak (recording), plus Al Lindau (Dean of Students, TAGOS Leadership Academy, Janesville); Steve Huth, Career & Technical Education Coordinator, School District of Janesville; Marge Hallenbeck, Director of At-Risk & Multicultural Program, School District of Janesville; Steve McNeal, Assistant Superintendent, School District of Beloit; Eric Levitt, City Manager, Janesville; Christine Schlichting, Executive Director, Neighborhood Housing Services of Beloit; Rod Benstead, Director, Consumer Credit Counseling Service; and John Pfleiderer, Executive Director, Family Services, Janesville/Beloit.

Distributed: Copies of the Various Proposal Documents—School Districts' Proposal; Criminal Justice System Proposal; Consumer Credit Counseling Proposal; UW-Whitewater Assistance to Small Business in Financial Distress Proposal; Back to Work Community Engagement (371 Productions, PBS, Workforce Boards, United Way, Monster) Proposal; Rock County Community-Based Education Capacity Building Project to Serve Unemployed and Underemployed Workers (Wisconsin Literacy) Proposal; and CORD and Our Auto Community: Building the Pipeline for College and Career Readiness In Both K-12 and Adults Proposal.

For those who were new, Bob Borremans described how CORD got started and its various activities, leading up to the anticipated Dr. Ed Montgomery visit, which has been planned for June 10. Bob mentioned that we had been requested to develop a list of 'asks' through Representative Sheridan's office, to be shared with the Ed Montgomery staff. We will be guided in the process by Linda Fowler of Regionerate in Bethesda, Maryland. She has had considerable experience and knowledge in working with federal agencies, especially directly with Dr. Montgomery and his staff. Sue Conley distributed a biography of Linda Fowler.

Linda described her background and experience. She'll work to ensure that the proper personnel will get to the June 10th meeting. She has already reviewed the proposals sent through CORD, shared them with her contacts at the federal level, and all but one appear to be viable plans, the only exception being the criminal justice proposal. She said the visit on the 10th is less about information sharing than decision-making. Because CORD seems to be ahead of others in their processes and planning, the consensus was to go ahead and start planning for the visit by fine tuning the presentation.

Linda indicated the presentation should include common themes, which will allow the feds to be more responsive. Ed Montgomery will still want the background data and information, but that can be done ahead of time through Linda.

Sue asked Linda if we are missing any piece that she was aware of. Linda did not think so but again felt that each proposal should relate back to the 'grand, overall plan.' She said it needs to be less disjointed and more organized. Because it only arrived today, she indicated she had not had a chance to thoroughly review the BTC proposal (Building the Pipeline for College and Career Readiness), but it may fit into a January, 2011 award timeframe for a special funding program for community colleges.

The planned timeframe prior to visit is as follows:

5-11

*Montgomery Planning Team
Meets-Develops Short Summaries
Of Each Proposal—3 Sentences—
With data, budget, leverage \$*

5-18

*Auto Summit in D.C.
Final Document Development*

5-25

Develop 6-10 Schedule

6-9

Linda here

6-10

Visit

Linda didn't believe Ed Montgomery would have time to address the information until after the Auto Summit concluded May 18, but she'll check to make sure that is the case. Next Linda gave some background information about the Summit, and how it can assist in bringing agencies and philanthropists together to best determine how they can support the automotive communities. She will be there, as will Bob Borremans and perhaps Eric Levitt. It is an 'invite only' event at a maximum of 350 persons.

Bob asked if we should send our list of 'asks' to Representative Sheridan's office per their request, in light of Linda's working through other avenues. Linda felt that yes, it was proper, and even though her contacts with Dr. Montgomery's office already know about the requests, a summary sheet would definitely be helpful.

The Ed Montgomery Visit Planning Team will meet next Tuesday, May 11 at 9 a.m. in Room H to start assembling all of the pieces of the plan. Since Mary Fanning Penny and Josh Smith are no longer a part of that team, Sue Conley and Steve Huth will join. Others include Gail Graham, Eric Kuznacic, Katie Kuznacic, James Otterstein, Bob Borremans, and Gregg Bosak. That group will meet every Tuesday between now and June 10th as necessary to plan for the visit.

Sharon asked about whether other funding requests/sources should be mentioned in proposals/requests. Linda said 'leverage' funding is important, to show they have 'some skin in the game.'

It was mentioned that someone will need to take the lead on pulling together our proposals and condensing them into the brief overview. Sue volunteered to do this. Steve asked if we were missing anything major where funding might be available. Linda said emerging technologies were an excellent sector to emphasize. Vic will also see if there might be additional opportunities in his area of economic development.

Kent asked what we might get out of this besides the funding aspect. Linda indicated positive announcements for Rock County, getting to know the positive aspects of the community and people as just some examples. There are no guarantees we will receive funding, or we may get a third, half or two-thirds of our request. But we do need to organize our 'asks' into categories, e.g., mental health, digital literacy, etc. These tend to fit into a well-balanced strategy. Linda mentioned that the federal agencies did not seem to have a problem working with Monster.com as a private agency, as long as they were an integral and supportive part of the overall plan.

Linda agreed to come in a day early (June 9) to assist in the finalization of the plan and presentation.

The meeting concluded at 10:30 a.m.