



CORD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010, 9 a.m., Rock County Job Center

Present: Bob Borremans (presiding), Russ Podzilni, Carrie Hermanson, Vic Grassman, Ryan Pingel (for Bud Gayhart), Janine Peterson, Yuri Rashkin, Sue Conley, Mary Buelow, Jim Stickels, Darcy Luoma and Helen Forbeck (both via phone conference), and Gregg Bosak (recording)

Bob mentioned that with both his and Gregg's increased responsibilities for the statewide workforce organization WWDA (Wisconsin Workforce Development Association) that the notice for this meeting was distributed a bit late. Bob has been elected chairman of that group while Gregg is the coordinator, which involves a major time commitment from both.

Bob reviewed the status of each of the eight projects/initiatives:

1. **Financial Stress Crisis Response**—no report as Lisa was unable to attend the meeting
2. **Phoenix Small Business Assistance Fund**—no report as James was unable to attend the meeting
3. **Comprehensive Mental Health**—since Gail Graham is no longer at United Way of North Rock County and Phil Boutwell will be assuming a new Assistant Director position with the county, there was no update. Janine did not receive update information from Gail prior to Gail's leaving
4. **Rock County Transitional Workers [Workers4U]**—no report as Lisa was unable to attend the meeting
5. **Construction Tools**—Bob placed the report in the context of what was happening with the Sector Alliance in Green Energy (SAGE) project. It is organized by GROW regions. In our region we have 12 counties and are receiving \$300,000 to assist in upgrading apprentices. We also receive an extra \$25,000 per year for two years as we're an 'auto impacted' county. We're now approaching the end of the first year on this three-year project.
6. **Urban Agriculture and Food Service**—no report as Steve Huth was not able to attend
7. **Building the Pipeline for College Readiness and Literacy**—the group convened in November and are in the process of developing a list of skills needed while developing a survey of what businesses desire in computer skills. They're progressing slowly but in a calculated, prescriptive direction.
8. **Back to Work**—neither Bob nor anyone else is sure where Brad is in his work on the taping of the program. Bob will contact Brad to determine progress to date.

Bob also mentioned he is working with Dr. Montgomery's office to see if grant funds can be carried over, but has received little response thus far. Sue mentioned she had spoken to Montgomery's staff at the September auto conference she attended, but they seem to be in a 'holding pattern' until Dr. Montgomery's replacement is determined. Darcy indicated she will follow up with the best contact in

her office to see if progress can be made, and will share any information or feedback she receives. Jim indicated he had been in contact with Teno's office. Teno indicated he would try to set up a conference with the Department of Education, but nothing has come of it yet. Bob indicated he had not heard from Larry Molnar in quite some time, and indicated he would contact him to determine what progress has been made.

The group discussed the future of CORD. Bob mentioned CORD has been losing members quickly, whether by election changes, resignations from positions, etc. He wanted consensus on what CORD's role should be. The recently completed Be Bold Wisconsin study has recommended changes to the way Wisconsin government operates. Some of the recommendations seem to be supported by Gov.-elect Walker who has publicly discussed changes to the Department of Commerce to stimulate economic development. Yuri felt CORD should revert back to its functioning before the Montgomery visit took major focus, to be more of a communication tool. Mary said the connections and info sharing were important to her. In speaking to James, Bob indicated he felt James thought the communication that CORD afforded was valuable, but established agencies could handle much of what CORD was now getting into. He said that he shares that opinion and feels there should still be a structured communication vehicle, such as a newsletter, and perhaps a semi-annual or annual face-to-face meeting. Bob felt that decreased face-to-face meetings may also enhance attendance. Mary cited advantages to meeting more frequently, but all agreed CORD needed a solid goal. The group finally concurred that meeting twice a year was appropriate. Mary asked about CORD's history, and Bob provided an overview. Sue offered to gather groups together (not as CORD), and she and Mary will meet to determine the best way to do that.

A quarterly newsletter was proposed to help keep the lines of communication open, with Gregg asking for input/information a minimum of 10 days prior to publication. Sue will help plan the next meeting, tentatively set for June 7. Bob thanked Helen, Darcy, Danielle and Katie for their valuable input and support from our federal legislators.

The meeting ended at 10 a.m.