

**NEMO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

August 17, 2009

PRESENT:

NEMO WIB MEMBERS

Kelly Hardcastle
Steve Hines
Terry Hughes
Sonny Raines
Bonnie Seehase
Penny Schwartz
Diane Simbro
Fred Vahle
John I. Wilson
Clarice Young

CLEOs

Lyndon Bode
Glenn Eagan
Charles Korman
Sean O'Brien
Roy Sisson
Glenn Turner
Steven Whitaker
Wayne Wilcox
Alan Wyatt

WIB STAFF

Mark Fuqua
Casie Baumann
Brandi Glover
Sharon Hillard
Craig Jackson
Cyndi Johns
Nickie Newell
Linda Studer

GUESTS

Mindy Breid, Achievement Award Winner
Shannon Breid, Award Winner's Guest
Mike Gavura, DWD
Carolyn Logue, Gamm, Inc.
Pat Meldrum, Gamm, Inc.
Alice Meyer, Boonslick RPC
Steve Moore, DWD
Barbara Peavler, Gamm, Inc.
JoAnn Toerper, Boonslick RPC
Shari Schenewerk, DWD
Senator Wes Shoemyer
Melissa Stacks, Achievement Award Winner
Lana Vestal, DWD
Alishia Winters, Award Winner's Guest
David Winters, Achievement Award Winner

WELCOME

WIB Chairperson Sonny Rains welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Senator Wes Shoemyer.

SENATOR WES SHOEMYER

Senator Wes Shoemyer said if anyone had a project that would qualify for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) more funds were available. He said there was \$92 million of CDBG funds that came into the State recently, and rural MO needed to get its share of those dollars. Information regarding the applications could be found on the State Economic Development website under CDBG Supplemental. Applications needed to be submitted by September 4. If anyone needed further assistance with this, they could contact his office.

The Senator then addressed the Northeast Region's Individual Achievement Award Winners. He said they had taken hold of an opportunity and achieved success. He talked about his grandfather's struggles during the great depression. How his grandfather was given opportunities by the government to help him through this time and how he went on to live a very productive life. He said although his grandfather was not a political man, he believed that government should invest in its people and this could change their lives forever. Senator Shoemyer said that others had invested in the lives of the award recipients. He called for the award recipients to remember this investment and to remember to give back. He congratulated the recipients on their many achievements. He said he was proud to be in the company of those who had invested their time in them, and of those who had given their time to come and show their appreciation.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Sonny said getting to see some of the results of what the program staff is involved in is one of the reasons why he remains involved in workforce investment. Each of our four career centers nominated one recipient as their Individual Achievement Award Winner and three of them were able to attend this evening. He said workforce investment is about creating a workforce that is ready, willing and trained for today's jobs so they can live successful lives. He said these four individuals represent hundreds of other individuals who have utilized career center services to live more productive lives. Sonny also recognized the Career Center staff for the work they had done with all of the individuals in preparing them for the workforce.

Career Center Supervisor Barbara Peavler provided information about Mindy Breid, the Individual Achievement Award Winner from the Moberly Career Center. Mindy was 1 of 75 dislocated workers from Citi Capital in 2005. She received assessment, job development, career counseling, case management, work experience and supportive services through the WIA Dislocated Worker Program and the MO Career Center-Moberly. Mindy received her Associate Degree in Business and Office from MACC graduating with a 4.0 GPA. Mindy was hired by Gamm, Inc. as a Career Consultant for the Career Assistance Program and works at the Missouri Career Center-Moberly. This is one example of how Mindy is giving back and helping others. Barbara said the Moberly Career Center was very happy to be able to nominate her for the award. Mindy was presented a plaque in recognition of her achievements.

Career Consultant Carolyn Logue provided information about David Winters, the Individual Achievement Award Winner from the Hannibal Career Center. Carolyn said she met David in January. He, his wife and son had just moved to the area from Florida in a U-Haul truck with no vehicle, and they were living with family. David was searching for a job, he had not been successful and he didn't know what to do. He enrolled in the Career Assistance Program, but with the declining economy, he was becoming frustrated with job searching. He continued to apply for jobs and they put David to work at the Career Center as a volunteer, painting. Carolyn said David was wonderful. He would do in one day what most people would have done in three, and he was the reason their center has such nice paint work. David finally got the opportunity to interview at Walmart. Walmart required David to have drug testing done at the hospital. David didn't call the career center or they would have made transportation arrangements for him. Instead he walked the six miles to and from the hospital for the testing. David got the job and he is now gainfully employed. Carolyn said they had another young man painting who was down on life and David mentored him and encouraged him to take pride in the job he was doing. After David left, the young man came back and finished the job. She thanked David for all he had done. David was presented a plaque in recognition of his achievements.

Workforce Development Specialist Shari Schenewerk provided information about Vernon Hutchinson, the Individual Achievement Award Winner from the Kirksville Career Center. Vernon was a twice Dislocated Worker who had lost his job from the Rubbermaid factory in Iowa and then from Ortech in Kirksville. Vernon heard about the Trade Program and realized he needed to have more education. Shari said he basically came into the Career Center and said he was going back to school and asked how they were going to help him. Vernon enrolled in the WIA Dislocated Worker Program and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program. He enrolled at Indian Hills Community College in the Machine Technology Program. To make this affordable he moved into the dorms with twin beds, cafeteria food and a roommate. He graduated in February, 2008 with a 3.97 GPA. He was recently hired by Reid-Fleming Industrial in St. James, MO as a Machinist. With his overtime his projected income will be around \$40,000 a year. Shari said he could not attend the Awards Ceremony was because he was working. She spoke with him a few days ago and he said to be careful what you ask for. Vernon said he wanted to go to work so badly and now he is working 60 hours a week. Vernon asked that Shari extend his appreciation to everyone for giving him the opportunity at age 30 to do what he should have done when he was 18. Shari said he is so appreciative to have gotten this second shot, and she could guarantee that he would give back over and over. Shari accepted a plaque of recognition on Vernon's behalf.

Career Consultant Alice Meyer provided information about Melissa Stacks, the Individual Achievement Award Winner from the Warrenton Career Center. Alice said she was fortunate to be here to celebrate a young woman's journey from social dependency to becoming both financially and emotionally independent. Melissa had dropped out of high school and moved out of her parent's home at 16. However, life was not what she had expected. She later married and became the mother of five girls. Although she was able to obtain her GED, she was involved in a domestic violence situation and was not allowed to work. With the help of the Robertson Center, a shelter in Lincoln County, she escaped that situation and started supporting herself and her family with a cleaning job. Being very determined to succeed, she later started a cleaning company. After divorcing she remarried and she and her husband struggled to support their large family. Melissa turned to the Warrenton Career Center for more education. She was enrolled in the WIA Adult Program to assist with her tuition and other supportive services. She was also referred to HOPE (Home Ownership Preservation Foundation) to help her keep their home. She

received career counseling and vocational assessment and enrolled in Allied Technical College where she earned her certificate as a surgical technician and graduating with an A average. Melissa is employed by Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in their surgical department earning \$13.83 per hour with full benefits. Melissa was presented a plaque in recognition of her achievements.

NOMINATION OF NEW WIB MEMBER

CLEO Chairperson Glenn Turner asked the CLEO's to consider a new Workforce Investment Board member from Randolph County. Randolph County Associate Commissioner Wayne Wilcox said he was asked to find an individual from the health field who would be willing to serve on the Workforce Investment Board. He said Diane Noah is the Director of Home Care of Mid-Missouri located in Moberly, MO. He spoke a little about her background and said Ms. Noah has her BSN RN in the health field and was looking forward to serving on the Board.

Wayne Wilcox nominated Diane Noah as a private sector member of the Workforce Investment Board representing Randolph County replacing Carla Bell. Alan Wyatt seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairperson Sonny Raines called the August 17, 2009 NEMO Workforce Investment Board (WIB) meeting to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. at the Quality Inn and Suites in Hannibal, Missouri.

ROLL CALL AND SIGNATURE SHEET

Fred Vahle, NEMO Workforce Investment Board Secretary/Treasurer, took roll call. A quorum of the full board could not be established. Seven of the ten Executive Committee members were present and an Executive Committee meeting was held.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

John I. Wilson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Bonnie Seehase seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

YOUTH COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION OF YOUTH PROVIDER CONTRACTS FOR PY 09

Brandi said the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the WIA Title 1-B Youth Program effective October 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 had been completed. She said the NEMO Workforce Investment Board Youth Council designated a committee to evaluate the proposals received in response to RFP. The committee consisted of four Youth Council members representing all three sub regions of the Northeast Region. An evaluation and technical review was also performed by the WIB office. The WIB received two proposals in response to the RFP which were from our current sub contractors, Gamm, Inc. and Boonslick Regional Planning Commission. Their proposals were submitted for the sub regions they are currently serving. Gamm is serving the Northeast and Mark Twain sub regions and Boonslick is serving the Boonslick sub region.

Brandi said the Youth Council recommended that Gamm, Inc. and Boonslick RPC serve as the program operators for the WIA Title 1-B Youth Programs for PY 09 both serving their

respective sub regions. She said the results of Youth Council's evaluation and the process they went through to make their determination and recommendation was available to anyone who would like to have a copy for their reference.

John I. Wilson made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Youth Council. Steve Hines seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Charlie Korman made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Youth Council. Sean O'Brien seconded the recommendation and the motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Sonny said the Executive Committee met after the June WIB meeting to review a Plan Modification that was necessary due to the WIB receiving additional American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. He said the Executive Committee approved the Plan Modification and it was submitted to the State July 13. On August 6, 2009 the WIB was notified that the State has also approved the Northeast Region's Plan Modification.

NORTHEAST REGION WIA & WAGNER-PEYSER PROGRAMS NEGOTIATED PERFORMANCE GOALS

Sonny reviewed the negotiated performance goals for the Northeast Region's WIA and Wagner-Peyser programs that were enclosed in the WIB packet. He stated that the goals were negotiated by the WIB with DWD. Mark explained that the state has allowed our region to negotiate down to the state average due to the current economic climate.

STATE OF THE REGION REPORT

Everyone was provided a handout of the *State of the Region Report*. Nickie reviewed the report and said there was some good news in the area and things have started to improve somewhat. She identified some of the employers in the region that have started to rehire. She then reviewed the industries that have been affected by layoffs or closures in the region. Nickie said the auto industry has been hit the hardest. She reviewed some of the anticipated layoff events which included General Motors, Boeing, Intermet, and Pace for a total of 1,000 plus dislocated workers.

Nickie said at this point the focus is on preparing the workforce for the high growth jobs of the future while continuing to work with our partners in education to revamp the delivery of education services to the region's youth and adult population. She said they emphasize linking people up with educational services. At every Rapid Response meeting, they encourage people to go back and pick up some classes to try to build on their experience so they can move into the jobs of the future.

Nickie said they are currently in the process of developing a Job and Resource Fair in Pike County that will be held August 27th at the Pike County Fair Grounds. Some of the employers that plan to attend are MoDot, Stark Brothers Fulfillment, Swiss Colony, and representatives from the prison. She asked anyone who knew of a business in the area who might like to attend the event to contact her.

Mark mentioned that the WIB was working with the State to find a location to set up a Temporary Transition Center to help manage all of the GM workers that are going to be dislocated from that facility.

DISABILITY PROGRAM NAVIGATOR PROJECT UPDATE

Cyndi said the Disability Program Navigator Project was funded through a separate pot of money the WIB has been receiving for the last couple of years. The intent of the project is to help train our career center staff on how to better help people with disabilities navigate the public workforce system. Through these Navigator dollars the WIB subcontracted with Learning Opportunities who is a local vendor with a long background of providing employment services for this niche population. Cyndi said a lot of traditional training for the service providers in our career centers has been provided through Jennifer Turpin who is our Disability Program Navigator. She explained that if a career center has a particular training need, they can contact Jennifer and she will tailor a training session around that need. Cyndi said we have become inundated with new customers and new partner agencies in our career centers and time for that type of traditional training has become scarce. So Jennifer has developed what she calls *30 Second Training Sessions*. These sessions cover various topics and can be accessed online. They are interactive and only take about five minutes to complete. They can also be saved and used as reference material. Cyndi said recently we were also able to bring Al Condeluci, a national speaker on community activism and transformation from the Pittsburgh area, in to provide a training session titled *Turn the paradigm upside down...A new way to think about disability*. The training was held at the Quality Inn and Suites in Hannibal and about 125 people from our career centers and various partner and public service agencies attended. It was a fantastic training and the feedback was wonderful.

Steven Whitaker said his wife was in charge of opening the new Dollar General store in New London last month. In July, she went to the Hannibal Career Center and interviewed 28 job seekers and hired 23 individuals through the career center to help set up the store. She has retained eight of them full time. His wife said all the applicants had their necessary paperwork, and everyone who applied passed their background check. She stated that she has never worked with more professional people than the staff at the Hannibal Career Center. She asked that he thank them for all they had done.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW WIB STAFF

Sonny introduced the Workforce Investment Board's Business Retention Specialist Craig Jackson. He said Craig was formally employed by Zimmer Radio Group in Columbia, MO. Sonny said Craig had a great success record behind him, and he knew that he would do well. He said he had a few things to learn, but he felt he was a quick study. Sonny said the Business Retention Program was very important and he was really anxious to get some speed going on it. He welcomed Craig to the WIB staff and wished him well.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mark said the webinar titled *It's Not the Economy Stupid* for Board chairs and Chief Local Elected Officials was going to be held at 2-3:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 30, 2009. He asked those who were interested to contact Sharon at the WIB office as soon as possible so arrangements for a location could be made.

CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION

The next NEMO Workforce Investment Board meeting was scheduled for October 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The location will be announced.

ADJOURN

Kelly Hardcastle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John I. Wilson seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Vahle