

One Stop Partner

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debbie Clausen, Sara Escatel, Pam Furlan, Judy Mason, Joel Torbeck

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bobbi Adams, Judy Fiste, Janet Graham, Sue Isermann, James Knauf, Becky Lambert, Lori Pemberton

OTHERS PRESENT: Karen Keller.

Meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chairperson Debbie Clausen

Approval of the August 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Judy Mason stated that the August 18, 2009 should have read as follows: Under the ARRA Discussion- Projects to be funded- Judy Mason told members that Illinois Department of Employment Security will be starting job-search workshops next month (September) funded by **ARRA, not BEST**. A motion was made by Judy Mason to approve the August 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded by Joel Torbeck and carried.

Business Meeting- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update

Judy Mason stated she is still waiting for approval to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Pam asked Judy why it takes so long for IDES to authorize the signature on the MOU. Judy replied that all MOUs are collected and a committee at IDES reviews all of them before authorizing signature by individual offices.

No Place Like Home Update

Pam Furlan informed members that there have been 2,900 hits on the NCI Works No Place Like Home web-site. She said 40 positions are posted for 15 employers. Pam said 7 of the positions are opened She also informed members that in mid-November another 5 positions will open at the International Titanium Powder, Inc. plant.

Illinois workNet Update

Joel Torbeck informed members that the recession is over and that the job availability at IDES is more than they have seen all year. He informed members that the Microsoft Elevate America Program is coming to an end next week and said that 66 vouchers were distributed with the web-site being very cumbersome.

One Stop Brochures Update

Judy Mason informed members that workshops are being conducted at the Illinois Department of Employment Security Ottawa office the 3rd Friday of every month at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. She said that each workshop is

1 ½ hours long about 15 in attendance. She encouraged members to call her if interested in speaking on their company's behalf. Debbie Clausen has compiled a list of resources for Judy, stating that she could use the brochures from the local Manpower office and business cards as well. Judy informed members that more resources were needed in the whole workforce area for the brochures and asked that all literature be directed to her. Pam stated she would have Carrie Folken contact Judy. Deb Clausen stated she sent all her information to Becky Lambert.

Update of LaSalle County Public Transportation Committee

Pam said that the Transportation Committee has not met as a full group yet. She said that Mayor Bob Eschbach is asking Reed Wilson, Peru City Economic Development Director, to help with the committee.

ARRA Discussion- Cost Items to be Funded

Pam Furlan said that projects are underway or completed. She informed members that BEST, Inc. is still working with IVCC and Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC) on the Manufacturing Summit adding that Phase 1 of the Summit will be the focus groups, Phase 2 will be addressing challenges and issues of the employers and depending on funding from the ARRA Phase 3 would be once employers have identified their issues. Pam said consultants will be available to speak to them on how they can approach their business and do things differently as they have been doing.

Pam informed members that information regarding details and cost of the summit was not received as anticipated.

Sara Escatel informed members that their funding was cut by \$5,000.00 and said next year DWC will have an open bidding process open to other possible recipients. She said the bidding process will be based on performance and needs in the workforce area.

Judy informed members that IDES posted 50 openings for third-shift material handlers at Kohl's Distribution Center in Ottawa. Qualifications include 1 year previous experience, passing a physical test and lifting 30 pounds on a daily basis. She said the job will pay \$11.25 an hour and applicants are to apply directly at Kohl's.

Deb stated that Manpower was looking for a temp to hire for a part-time payroll clerk position and the hours then went up to 38 hours a week.

Debbie Clausen said that statistics showed that most of the population in Wisconsin rents and may transfer here to Ottawa for their positions at Kohl's Distribution Center. Judy Mason said it was very encouraging to be able to send these people somewhere. She said that Lynn Wagner had previously stated that when ArcelorMittal closed, the company had to declare their intentions long before they actually closed their doors.

Other Business

Judy Mason informed members that the lease for IDES has been signed for another 5 years. She said that Central Management Service sent out bids for a new site and selected Ottawa. She stated that Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Health & Family Services and IDES will all

reside in the same office. She said demolition is slated to begin on December 1 and move in date will be on July 1, 2010.

Pam Furlan updated members on the “Meet and Greet” session with Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson on October 17, 2009. She said that Congresswoman Halvorson met with 6 NCI Works Board members, 1 BEST Board Member; 5 employers and 1 youth at the Peru Office. She stated that Congresswoman Halvorson dialogued with those in attendance and asked questions.

Public Comments

Joel Torbeck mentioned to the committee that he and Judy Mason were going to Hobbs in Spring Valley to meet with employees who are being laid-off.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Joel Torbeck motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Judy Mason and carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Karen Keller