

**PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYER COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2011**

The Private Sector Employer Committee meeting was called to order at 4:30 by NCI Works Vice-Chairperson DeAnna Carlson.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Andreoni, Mary Boogemans, DeAnna Carlson, Linda Hessenberger, Amy Liebing, John Spencer, Amy Strawn, Lynn Wagner, Gerald Waszkowiak

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vickie Carlson, Debbie Clausen, Lonnie Doan, Tim Farraher, Deb Madsen, Jean Millar, Mike Phalen, Carole Sekula, Louis Sekula

OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Furlan, Karen Keller, Dianna Schuler

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Gerald Waszkowiak motioned to approve the October 26, 2010 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mary Boogemans and carried.

Manufacturing CEO Network with IVCC Update

Pam Furlan informed members that a Manufacturing CEO Network event was held at IVCC (Illinois Valley Community College). She said attendees came from Streator, Amboy and the local area. She said business cards were exchanged and there was plenty of dialogue and networking. Issues that came out of this event were: Aging workforce, attracting young people to the Manufacturing industry and sustaining and promoting Manufacturing in Illinois. Pam said that she volunteered NCI Works to be the next sponsor at the end of February/Early March and that Jennifer Scheri and Jamie Gahm were instrumental in the planning. Attendees absent from this event followed up to obtain more information.

Manufacturing DVD Update

Pam said she wanted to leave Manufacturing DVD Update on the agenda. She said she spoke to her counterpart in the Northwest regarding applying for the technical assistance grant.

Workforce Board Self-Assessment Survey Results

Pam said she would like to see the Private Sector Employer Committee take the lead and discuss results of the self-assessment survey at the next NCI Works meeting. She said the results have targeted the Private Sector Employer Committee as being a part of the training, and she still hears about Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization. She said WIA reauthorization is looking to enhance the roles of the board and look at quality issues in terms of WorkForce Boards. She stated that the purpose of the survey was to find out how we can become a more effective board.

In discussing the results, Pam said that questions on the survey relating to the board being seen as a leading authority on Workforce Development, Strategic Planning and engaging other members; including elected officials, of the community were some good topics for Board Development Training. There was a request that the facilitator bring ideas on how to accomplish these things. She said when we work with chambers question what the chamber's strategies/plans are for economic development and if

they see a role for the workforce board in our area. Good topics for Board Development training, she mentioned; would be what you would like to see in terms of activities of the board and providing benchmarks for its own work. She said she will put these topics in the Request for Proposal (RFP) when we begin looking for a facilitator.

DeAnna Carlson suggested we also contact city economic development directors such as Don Aleksy, Debb Ladgenski and Becky Clinard in Oglesby.

Jim Andreoni suggested that if manufacturers said their concern was aging workforce, we need to facilitate manufacturers to communicate with the schools. He said if that was the recurring theme, then we are not going to be able to provide replacements.

Gerald questioned whether the concern was replacement, and Pam said yes. She said issues with aging workforce were safety and accidents.

Jim suggested focusing on an idea to work with IVCC and obtaining a certificate for Manufacturing. Lynn Wagner stated that when these Manufacturing programs are created at IVCC, people show no interest in them.

John Spencer suggested that businesses should have older workforce train the younger workforce, but said that they do not want to pay for that to happen.

Pam stated that the purpose of having “Work in the Real World” (WITRW) events, is to introduce students to Manufacturing and peak their interest. She said she recently obtained information from Jim Loveland about an entrepreneurial program in the Effingham area in which the program connects businesses as mentors with the high schools. She said she will make some contacts and obtain some information on this program.

Gerald Waszkowiak stated that the misconception is that Manufacturing is closed down, and there are no jobs available in our area.

Dianna Schuler informed members that most of the positions that job-seekers seek to fill, are filled through staffing agencies. She said these jobs are perceived as temporary by the workforce and become undesirable as a result of that.

Pam said that we attend meetings and report what we do with our performance and progress, but partners of Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. have not given statistical information.

Lynn suggested listing what committees and staffing we have, asking them if there are areas that they think we are missing based on other best practices, compared to other workforce boards. She said many committees have changed names and membership and thought it would be a good idea to let them know up front. She said that we currently see measures quarter to quarter but suggested we go back 5 years to see if we have improved and make a comparison from year to year. She said when looking at long-term economic trends, the workforce boards provide that information to their members.

Pam said she would send it out to the board and let them know that this is what we would like to discuss. She said she would like to know more of what the board would like to see, adding that the focus of our Board Development training are the areas of improvement. She said John Fritts sits on the board and relays information back to other CEO's and that the CEO's view him as their representative.

Business Services Update

Dianna Schuler disseminated a Business Service Representative Update to members. She said that the Dr. Pepper/Snapple Group will host a job fair in Ottawa on Tuesday, January 18. She also stated that an individual slated for OJT was found to have already had a certificate in Warehousing and therefore, will not receive OJT at United Pipe and Supply.

Dianna said that at the last NCI Works meeting, it was stated that the NCI Works website needed re-vamping. She stated that the website was originally established, designed and maintained by Letterkraft Printers in Peru, IL. She said Jo Ann Johnson is currently working with Letterkraft to get this problem resolved.

Pam informed members that once a quarter, classified ads are placed in local area newspapers directing people to the "No Place Like Home" (NPLH) website.

Global Trade Partners Initiative Update

Pam informed committee members that all local chambers are working together to promote the idea about regionalism. She said she will be meeting with the consultant group. She said she will keep this on the agenda to keep everyone informed on what is going on.

Other Business

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Jim Andreoni motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Lynn Wagner and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Karen Keller