

**Workforce Action Team**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
*October 29, 2008*

The Workforce Action Team Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Chairman Terry Madsen

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Deb Clausen, Judd Lusher, Terry Madsen, Dianna Schuler, Joel Torbeck

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Claudia Bachman, Becky Lambert, Kelli Whightsil

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bev Malooney Director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center, Carol Betts

**Approval of Minutes**

Terry Madsen made a correction to the August 25<sup>th</sup> minutes. Terry and Reed were in Peoria and saw the SCORE office. The office was closed, so they were not able to tour the office. Dianna Schuler motioned to approve the August 25, 2008 meeting minutes with corrections. Motion was seconded by Joel Torbeck and carried.

**NCI Works Projects:**

Aging Workforce/Impending Retirements “Clearinghouse” for Sharing Best Practices

Joel Torbeck said that he is working with Lonnie Doan, Brian Serby and Tim Farraher. They are going to try to set-up a round table with other employer’s that have an aging workforce. The round table won’t be until next year. Joel also said that he didn’t know if there is any money to support the group, so anything they do will be on a small scale.

Deb suggested that this would be a good topic at next year’s Employer’s Conference. Deb also volunteered to be on the committee with Joel and Lonnie.

“Clearinghouse” for Sharing Best Practices

Circle of 7

Bev Malooney the Director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center explained that the Circle of 7 is a group through the Illinois Small Business Administration at Illinois State University. The group works with the local Chambers and the Economic Development Groups in the Bloomington venue. They have established businesses as mentors. With the mentors and other newer businesses they sponsor workshops throughout the year. The mentor program has guidelines that must be strictly adhered to, so it is a total commitment for the mentor.

Joel asked Bev how they got started; Bev said it was initiated through the local chambers.

Reed said the Bloomington/Normal community includes the universities which support the program, also their unemployment rarely gets to 4%.

Bev agreed the Bloomington/Normal community has a much more diverse area; she also said our area is more broken up. Bev said that she mainly works with people that are established in business, and their main concerns are job retention and keeping employees revitalized and energized.

Joel said the committee should pass along the information regarding Circle of 7 to the Private Sector.

Terry concluded by asking that the minutes of this meeting be sent to the chairman of the Private Sector, and remove this item from future agendas.

Bev said that if there are people in the private sector that need help, she works with all kinds of strategic issues whether it's financial or whatever. Anyone needing help should contact her office; the staff can direct them to the appropriate resource.

### **NCI Works Projects from Executive Committee**

#### **Start local "SCORE" Program (w/Strategic Group)**

Reed said he made contact with the chairman of the Peoria Chapter, Donald Rohn. Donald suggested accessing the SCORE National website, [www.score.org](http://www.score.org). Reed said they are very proud of their website and very eager to answer questions.

Joel said he didn't know there a SCORE group available in this area.

Bev said SCORE is set-up to help people that want to go into business, but don't know which business to start. The mentors take them through a discovery process. Most of the SCORE people are retired with a good solid business background; they are all volunteers.

Reed said the SCORE offices are affiliated with the local Chambers

Joel said the initial thought regarding SCORE was to get a chapter in this area, so now that we know there is a SCORE chapter in our area we can put a link to SCORE on the NCI Works website.

Terry said that geographically we are covered by other locations in the state.

Bev said that when people go to the SBA website, SCORE is one of the first resources they will see.

The committee agreed this item should be removed from future agendas.

#### **Other Business**

The Chair will call the next meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

With there being no further business, Dianna Schuler motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Reed Wilson and carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Carol Betts