

**NCI WORKS
MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2011**

The NCI Works Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Debbie Clausen.

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Bobbi Adams		X	Sue Isermann		X
Jim Andreoni		X	James Knauf		X
Kris Boggs		X	Amy Liebing	X	
Mary Boogemans	X		Kevin Lindeman	X	
Linda Burt	X		Deborah Madsen		X
DeAnna Carlson	X		Dave McClure		X
Jim Carlson		X	David Mennie		X
Vicki Carlson	X		George Mihel		X
Debbie Clausen	X		Jean Millar	X	
Jim Conness		X	Lori Pemberton		X
Nancy Curran	X		Mike Phalen		X
Sara Escatel		X	Tom Pigati	X	
Monte Flack	X		Dianna Schuler	X	
John Fritts	X		Carole Sekula		X
Pam Furlan	X		John Spencer		X
Janet Graham		X	Mary Stouffer		X
Linda Hessenberger	X		Amy Strawn	X	
David Howell	X		Joel Torbeck	X	
			Gerald Waszkowiak	X	
Chief Elected Officials					
Marc Wilt			Joe Panzica		
Gilbert Tonozzi			John Fritts		

Others Present: Julie Forsythe, Jessica Green, Mary Wiczorek

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Linda Burt motioned to approve the September 27, 2011 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Gerald Waszkowiak and carried.

Chairman's Comments

Welcome

Chairperson Debbie Clausen introduced Nancy Curran, new local manager of the Ottawa Illinois Department of Employment Security, as an official member of the NCI Works Board. She will replace Judy Mason.

Introduction

Debbie Clausen introduced and yielded the floor to Julie Forsythe of Midwest Intellectual Property Institute for an informational presentation.

Julie Forsythe (Midwest Intellectual Property Institute)

Julie began by saying that Midwest Intellectual Property Institute is funded by a 1.5 million dollar grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The concept of the Institute began about 4 years ago in the Moline area. Julie said that the institute serves a bi-state area which involves 50 counties between Illinois and Iowa. There are 2 divisions to the institute which are Patent and Talent Pool. The Patent division involves corporate partners like John Deere and Rock Island Arsenal. These corporations give access to Intellectual Properties to identify new uses for patents in non-competitive areas and the largest recruitment is done with corporate partners. This is of great value since it is faster to utilize already proven patents to create jobs. Emphasis is on short-term defined projects rather than full time positions. Project involvement may be paid but volunteers also exist as a way to make a community better for the next generation.

Julie said that she is directly associated with the Talent Pool division. She said that as the population ages and retires, she tries to match retired talent with company needs. This also opens doors for accompanying spouses in the local area who might be interested in business projects, group round tables, mentoring and brain storming.

Julie invited NCI Works members to contact her if they feel that they may be able to find opportunities from her organization.

No Place Like Home

Dianna Schuler gave an informational presentation on No Place Like Home. No Place Like Home is a feature on <http://www.nciworks.org/>. The idea of No Place Like Home is to attract youth and other workers back to the area. The concept was originally brought back from Louisiana by Mike Neuenkirchen, past chamber director in Streator. Pam Furlan stated that in 2006 and 2007, the Workforce Board and Private Sector Employer Committee became interested and held employer forums on ways to prevent youth worker drain in the area. NCI Works adopted the concept in 2008 and it has received 9,000 website hits, displays 15 businesses with 14 openings, 6 hospitals and 26 businesses with no current openings. A \$15 per hour or salary equivalent is required to post an opening on the site. There is no fee for employers to list. Employers interested in posting positions should contact Dianna or Pam. John Deere is new to the site with 2 positions open.

Dianna went on to say that she markets the site when she meets with employers. Pam said that other marketing measures used were sending letters about No Place Like Home to the schools and initiatives for inclusion in alumni letters. Pam also said that No Place Like Home is advertised in local newspaper Want Ad sections on a quarterly basis.

Gerald Waszkowiak thought that a good recruiting measure for No Place Like Home would be quarterly advertising targeted at an audience who would know of people interested in returning to local opportunities. He also suggested advertising on Channel 13, a local informational cable station, as a promotional tool.

Jean Millar suggested placing links to No Place Like Home in school websites. She also thought it would be advantageous to take NPLH brochures to businesses and HR departments as endorsements for the program. Linda Burt added that NPLH information could be sent to college placement offices. She also said a NPLH Facebook site could be developed. Amy Liebing said that a direct mail service recently rolled-out by the Postal Service might be beneficial to reach targeted populations. Other ideas presented included a website presentation of significant business milestones, offering worksite safety training as a community service and fostering advertising for job fairs and business recognition.

Committee Reports

Youth Council

In the absence of Jim Carlson, Pam Furlan gave a Work Readiness Certificate update saying that the Youth Council and Private Sector Employer Committee will obtain information from DePue Superintendent Randy Otto, who worked with the certification in the past, in the hopes of implementing the program locally.

Business Liaison & Marketing

Linda Burt opened with the topic of establishing a slate of nominees for next year's officers. Pam Furlan said that it would indeed be welcomed if Linda Burt could be nominated as NCI Works Chairperson. Pam went on to say that the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) establishes local workforce boards, and requires that at least 51% of the members come from the business sector. The law also requires that the board chair must come from the business representatives. Since the inception of NCI Works, Local Workforce Area 12 has always taken the position that "business" mean "private sector" businesses, and as a result hospitals would be excluded from this classification because in our area they are all 501(c)(3) Entities, i.e., not-for-profit community-based organizations (CBO). Therefore, while hospitals could, and in fact should- be represented on the board, hospitals were never included as part of the 51% business representation.

Pam went on to say that in preparing the slate of NCI Works officers for 2012, she was informed at the last minute that our current chairperson was no longer going to be employed and would therefore be resigning from NCI Works immediately. This was somewhat of a predicament because she was fully expected to continue to chair the board next year and also because the person who accepted the vice-chair position is still relatively new to the board. However, the person, Linda Burt, who had consented to be nominated as secretary has been on NCI Works since it was first established and agreed to become chairperson. While Linda Burt would be an outstanding NCI Works Chairperson, one problem remained. Linda represents St. Margaret's Hospital, currently considered a CBO and not a "business", making her ineligible to be chair.

Pam indicated that she contacted several colleagues to inquire if any considered hospitals as "businesses". Pam said that she received several replies -all stating that they do consider hospitals as business members. Pam simultaneously contacted DCEO to get an opinion on this issue and DCEO responded that they have indeed approved hospitals as business members.

Because it is the responsibility of the CEOs to appoint all members to the local workforce boards (i.e., NCI Works), Pam would like to recommend to the CEOs of LWA #12 that they approve recognition of hospitals as "businesses", subject to all appropriate business appointment policies and procedures. Individuals representing hospitals would then be counted as part of the 51%, and would consequently be

eligible to serve as Chairperson of the board. Pam said that the CEOs were scheduled to meet in December.

Linda Burt then motioned to approve the slate of officers as follows:

Chairperson: Linda Burt, pending CEO approval

Vice Chairperson: Amy Strawn

Secretary: Linda Hessenburger

Motion was seconded by Dianna Schuler with the ballot being unanimously approved with no opposed.

Linda Burt then brought the subject of the past Employer's Conference to the forefront. She said the conference was well attended and she reviewed enclosed budget information. Linda said that in developing the 2012 Employer's Conference, every attempt should be made to once again obtain pro-bono speakers. She continued on to share enclosed attendance and budget information regarding the past September local awards banquet.

One Stop Partner

Pam Furlan stated that there was still no change or decision on the MOU or CAA plan as submitted.

Private Sector Employer

Pam Furlan said that she has not received a decision on Workforce Board Training and DCEO continues to look for funds.

Accountability Committee

Joel Torbeck presented the 1st Quarter Performance Reports as an action item. Linda Burt motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Linda Hessenberger and carried.

Joel then addressed the review and approval of program certifications. Linda Burt motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by David Howell and carried.

Planning/Organizational Resource Committee

2-Year Look-Back Requirement Waiver for Trade Eligible Individuals

Joel Torbeck addressed the waiver of the look-back period for Trade-eligible clients. Currently, there may exist a case in which a trade-eligible individual may not meet the 2-year look-back requirement for Dislocated Worker eligibility that the board has adopted in the WIA 5-year plan. Since DCEO policy requires co-enrollment for Trade and 1D, it is necessary to have the board waive this requirement for these individuals. The issue will be resolved in an upcoming plan modification, but until that is approved by the board and DCEO, this waiver will allow us to be able to follow DCEO policy.

Joel motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Mary Boogemans and carried with no opposed.

Authorization to Approve Modification to Plan

Pam Furlan said that as a result of the Continuing Resolution approved by Congress, the local areas are to receive additional WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding due to the reduction of the Governor's discretionary funding being cut from 15% to 5%. It is anticipated that DCEO will request a Plan

Modification be submitted prior to the next scheduled NCI Works meeting. She proposed to give the Planning/Organizational Resource committee authorization to act on behalf of the board in order to be able to meet the required 30-day public comment period for the Plan Modification.

Gerald Waszkowiak made a motion to approve. Joan Millar seconded the motion and carried.

Logistics Council Meeting

Pam said a tour was taken of Oak State Products in Wenona. She also said that more local tours would be beneficial along with tours involving air transportation.

Other Business

September WIB Meeting Evaluation Summary

Debbie directed the board's attention to the enclosed September meeting summary. Gerald Waszkowiak motioned for approval to complete the meeting evaluation on a quarterly basis rather than at every meeting. Motion was seconded by Dianna Schuler and carried. Elimination of the Power Point presentation as enclosed in the meeting materials was motioned for approval by Vicki Carlson. Motion was seconded by Jean Millar and carried.

New membership List

Debbie pointed out the enclosed new membership list and referenced the 2012 Meeting Schedule as noted in the agenda.

Public Comments

Pam introduced Jessica Green to members. Jessica is a Fiscal Officer with the Business Employment Skills Team, Inc.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Dianna Schuler motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by DeAnna Carlson. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Mary Wieczorek

Approved by:



Linda Hessenberger
Secretary