

**TARGETED POPULATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 15, 2016**

The Targeted Population Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Co-Chair Carrie Folken. Roll call was taken.

NAME	PRESENT (Peru)	PRESENT (Sterling)	ABSENT
Fidencio Campos		X	
Dan Fitzgerald			X
Carrie Folken	X		
Vanessa Hoffeditz	X		
Rachelle May			X
Brandon Rumler		X	
Teresa Strum			X
Clay Whelan			X

OTHERS PRESENT (Peru): Pam Furlan

OTHERS PRESENT (Sterling): Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Brandon Rumler motioned to approve the April 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Fidencio Campos and carried.

Business Meeting

Identify barrier(s) for each targeted area

Carrie reminded members that at the last meeting the matrix was developed for Individuals with Disabilities. This meeting, she said, committee members will focus on the Ex-Offender population. Carrie told members that she is not an expert in the Ex-Offender population but handed out a matrix with some of the barriers she identified. She said that this matrix could be a start for discussion and asked if there were additional barriers to include. Fidencio shared with members a few individuals that he either has worked with or been acquainted with. He said that most of their offenses are drug related when they were younger and have rebounded successfully. Vanessa started a discussion about the lack of knowledge to expunge criminal records. Pam told members that included with the meeting materials was a list of companies that do hire individuals with a record. This list, she said, may not include all businesses, but it can always be updated to include additional businesses. Members agreed that such a list would be beneficial to those individual returning to the workforce. Pam also commented that it may be helpful to include on the list whether there were any restrictions and conditions by the company, such as a non-violent felony.

Under the Lack of Job Search Skills barrier, Vanessa identified that some individuals may need help to emotionally prepare them for the background check. Pam commented that there may be a resource paper available that could provide some assistance on this topic. Carrie stated that there are job search workshops just for Ex-Offenders. She said that the current job search workshops could be utilized by targeting Ex-Offender population.

Vanessa identified Affordable Housing as a barrier. She stated that some Ex-Offenders may return to the same environment that got them in trouble with the law. Pam asked if public housing was available for individuals who are returning citizen. Fidencio commented that some are restricted.

Brandon commented that at his place of employment, they do an extensive background check. He said certain things in the background check will be identified and they will not employ the person. Brandon suggested contacting employers and the temporary agencies to find out some of the barriers they see with the Ex-Offender population.

Pam said that at one time, IL Department of Employment Security had a bonding program. She suggested to contact them for information.

Vanessa suggested a Second Change Program forum that would allow the returning citizens to be heard. Carrie stated that if a list could be obtained then a Second Chance Job Fair could be held.

Pam reminded members that when we first started the process of identifying the barriers, we were looking for commonalities. She said that the committee has already identified barriers why employers won't hire individuals with disabilities. Now, she said, the committee is looking at Second Chance. Pam suggested that before a forum is held that the Veterans Population be discussed.

Pam then asked members if they would be interested in bringing a representative of the Ex-Offender Population to address either the NCI Works Board or committee to address some of the questions that are being asked by members. Pam told members that she contacted Bill Pflasgraf with LaSalle County Court Services about making a presentation at this committee meeting, but he was not available. He did indicate, however, that he would be happy to talk with the committee at a future date. Carrie commented that the individuals that Bill would be addressing have not been incarcerated. They are considered non-violent ex-offenders.

Brandon commented that there is value to hearing someone who has gone through the process and been successful. Fidencio informed members that one of his co-workers may be able to share his story with the committee. Fidencio said that he will talk with him to see if he would be interested in sharing his story.

Brandon stated that employers need to be educated about the ex-offender population. Although employers may have restrictions a blemish on a person's record does not mean that they are not a good worker or person. He continued by saying that some employers may be missing out on valuable employees.

Pam said that if a Second Chance Job Fair was held that perhaps time could be spent with employers sharing information with them to open their minds about both Individuals with Disabilities and Ex-Offenders.

Members briefly discussed the Veterans population. Pam stated that at the August 17 committee members will identify some barriers of the Veterans population.

On-line Resource Mapping Guide Update

Carrie informed members that the Resource Mapping Guide should be complete by June 30. She told members that the Guide will include contact information for making referrals to various agencies. Carrie said that a copy of the Guide will be sent to members and if there are any corrections to let her know before June 30. She said that eventually the Resource Mapping Guide will be web-based so that everyone can utilize it.

Approval of the PY 16 Local Plan

Pam then presented the PY 16 Local Plan to members. Pam told members that the Plan was presented to the NCI Works at their May meeting, but it was not complete. Pam said that NCI Works gave authority to the One Stop Partner Committee, Youth Committee and Targeted Population Committee to approve the PY 16 Local Plan on their behalf. Then Pam pointed out the enhancements that were made to the PY 16 Plan stating that they were typed in red. After the review, Fidencio Campos motioned to approve the PY 16 Plan. Motion was seconded by Brandon Rumler and carried.

Approval of the Northern Stateline Economic Development Region Regional Plan

Pam then presented the Northern Stateline Economic Development Region Regional Plan. She said that this Regional Plan included Ogle County along with Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties. Pam told members that a draft copy of this Regional Plan was presented to the NCI Works at their May meeting. She said that NCI Works gave authority to the One Stop Partner Committee, Youth Committee and Targeted Population Committee to approve the PY 16 Local Plan on their behalf. Then Pam pointed out a few minor corrections were made to Page 3 Section A. Pam handed out a replacement chart that was on Page 6 of the document noting that although there was not a significant change to the numbers, the Labor Market Information was updated. Pam stated that she will elaborate on the entrepreneurial activities (Page 30). After discussion, Vanessa Hoffeditz motioned to approve the Northern Stateline Economic Development Region Regional Plan. Motion was seconded by Brandon Rumler and carried.

Approval of the Northwest Economic Development Region Regional Plan

Pam told members that unfortunately she has not received any changes to the Northwest Economic Development Region Regional Plan. Therefore, she said that the Plan that is being presented is the same one that was presented to NCI Works at their May meeting. Pam reminded members that NCI Works gave authority to the One Stop Partner Committee, Youth Committee and Targeted Population Committee to approve the PY 16 Local Plan on their behalf. Since this

was the last Committee to meet before the Plans needed to be submitted, she ask for approval for the Northwest Economic Development Region Regional Plan as presented. Fidencio Campos motioned to approve the Northwest Economic Development Region Regional Plan as presented. Motion was seconded by Vanessa Hoffeditz and carried.

Other Business

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Vanessa Hoffeditz motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Brandon Rumler and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson