

**TARGETED POPULATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2017**

The Targeted Population Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Carrie Folken. Roll call was taken.

NAME	PRESENT (IL Valley Community College)	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 (IVCC): Pam Furlan, Jo Ann Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT (Sterling): Dianna Schuler

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dan Fitzgerald motioned to approve the October 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Vanessa Hoffeditz and carried.

Business Meeting

Develop Response for Common Barriers

Pam referred members to the updated Matrix that was enclosed with the meeting materials. She informed members that the barriers for the targeted populations were listed so that commonalities could be identified. The next step, Pam suggested is to look at the population and design a response for the common barriers. As members discussed the barriers and commonalities identified they commented about repetition between the targeted populations. Vanessa suggested that some type of resource be developed to share for these individuals. Many times, she said, there is a lack of knowledge to engage with them. Dan agreed commenting that one of the hardest things for his staff to do is facilitating the development of relationships. Vanessa noted that developing relationships is difficult for the ex-offender population as well. Carrie responded by saying that each of the targeted populations identified struggle with developing relationships. Pam asked if hosting a hiring event for veterans, ex-offenders and individuals with disabilities with employers that were welcoming to that populations would be of benefit. Brandon said that if someone is interested in his facility he generally gives them a tour followed by a one or two trial work day with trained staff. By doing the trial work day allows

the individual to know if they are capable and/or comfortable doing the job. Brandon told members that he provides staff training so they know how to work with the disability population. Dan stated that his facility also does individualized staff training so they are familiar with each person that they serve. Vanessa commented that IL Dept. of Rehabilitation may have a resource for employers that outline the benefits of hiring an individual with disabilities. Members then discussed amongst themselves opportunities for hiring and training individuals with different types of disabilities. It was noted that although the discussion was mostly about individuals with disabilities, the technique of job carving and trial work days could very easily work for other targeted populations.

After discussion, Pam commented that this undertaking is going to be a huge endeavor. She asked members if they would be willing to serve on a task force or work group to develop a model program. She suggested that the group meet and set aside a good portion of the afternoon by inviting other partners to assist with this project. It was suggested that Department of Rehabilitation Services, Veteran Representatives and IL Department of Corrections be invited. The goal, Pam said would be to include members of the targeted population in a task force environment to develop a model fashioned after job carvings/job sharing. Dan commented that the first step would be educate the task force as little is known about the veterans and ex-offender population. Pam told members that she recently read an article in the Chicago Tribune about a Re-Entry Center and will send the information out to members. Vanessa said that she will contact an individual in Kewanee that may be of assistance. She also told members of an informational guide that is available online for ex-offenders and told members she would send them the information. Members agreed to be a part of the task force to develop a model that will assist the targeted populations identified entry into the workforce.

Fidencio asked if they would like to include Josh Miller on the task force. Pam commented that he would be welcome but noted that the meetings would be held during the day. Knowing that Josh works during the day, it may be difficult for him to attend. Fidencio commented that Goodwill hired ex-offenders and agreed to talk with their manager about serving on a task force. In closing, Pam said that she would get some information out to everyone so that a meeting can be scheduled for March.

Jobs for Felons / Felon Friendly Employers List Update

Dianna informed members that the BEST, Inc. Business Relations Representatives is asking companies they are working with about hiring a felon and their response is always that it depends on the felony. She noted that currently 3 businesses in Ottawa have indicated that they are second chance friendly. Dianna told members that job seekers are encouraged to check out Jobs For Felons website at www.exoffenders.net. She said that through this website the job seeker can do a nationwide search by defining parameters of job openings across the United States.

Other Business

It was noted that the next Targeted Population Committee meeting will be April 19, but members agreed to meet before then.

Carrie noted that Rachelle May and Clay Whelan were no longer able to attend the Targeted Population Committee meetings and were asked to be removed from the membership list.

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 5:00 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson