

Workforce Development Council Meeting
Regular Quarterly Meeting
July 10, 2007

AGENDA ITEMS

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| A. Call to Order | Warren Lotsberg, Chair |
| B. Approval of Minutes | Warren Lotsberg, Chair |
| C. Director's Report | Bill Molseed |
| D. Action Items | |
| 1. Election of Officers | Warren Lotsberg |
| 2. GED Fee Increase | Marcia Hess |
| E. Updates | |
| 1. Volunteers for Reading Award Nominations | Warren Lotsberg |
| 2. State Plans | Grady Kickul |
| a. Division of Rehabilitation Services | |
| b. Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired | |
| 3. Technical Institutes | Mark Wilson |
| 4. University System Contributions to the Healthcare Workforce | Paul Gough |
| 5. Western Governors University | Ken Sorber |
| 6. Job Corps Update | Bill Molseed |
| 7. Youth Vision and Programs | Bill McEntaffer |
| 8. Local Employment Dynamics (LMI) | Bernie Moran |
| F. Adjournment | |

AGENDA ITEM A CALL TO ORDER

The South Dakota Workforce Development Council (WDC) met in Pierre in the Kneip Conference Room #3 on Tuesday, July 10, 2007. The meeting was called to order by Council Chairman Warren Lotsberg at 10:00 a.m. CST. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was present.

Members Present

Warren Lotsberg, Chairperson	George Cook	Cal Geis
Ann Gesick-Johnson	Grady Kickul	Patricia Kenner
Warren Lotsberg	Mark Wilson	D. J. Mertens
Wally Myers	Paul Gough	Pam Roberts
Larry Tolzin	Helen Wegner	Roland Benson

Members Absent

Pat Lund	Shelley Stingley
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Others Present

Bill Molseed, Executive Director	Marcia Hess	Ken Sorber
Kari Porch	Bill McEntaffer	Bernie Moran
Melodee Lane	Tiffany Stoesser	Pam Miller
Kim Olson	Travis Brandson	Marcia Hultman
Andy Szilvasi		

AGENDA ITEM B APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Patricia Kenner made a motion to approve the April 5, 2007, minutes. Wally Myers seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

AGENDA ITEM C DIRECTOR'S REPORT

South Dakota Minimum Wage

The minimum wage in South Dakota is increasing in increments of \$.70 per hour over the next three years. The first increase on July 24, 2007, will raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$5.85 per hour. On July 24, 2008, it will increase to \$6.55 and on July 24, 2009, it will increase to \$7.25. Estimates indicate over 3,000 workers in South Dakota will benefit directly from the increase this year. The President, Congress, governor, and legislature determined a higher minimum wage will benefit low wage workers by increasing income, reducing poverty, stimulating the economy by increasing purchasing power of low wage workers, and providing greater equity and fairness.

Federal Action on Appropriations

The United States House of Representatives and United States Senate reached an agreement on the budget resolution. However, it is \$21 billion over the amount requested by the President. Congress will work on the spending bills for Labor,

Health, Human Services, and Education tied directly to workforce development. The President expressed concern over the amount of the spending bills, and it is yet to be seen if the President and Congress can come to an agreement. It is likely continuing resolutions will continue after September 30, 2007.

Reauthorization

The United States House commenced consideration of both the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Trade Adjustment Assistance Act (TAA) reauthorization. They hope to move the legislation forward in September 2007; but the Senate, a more deliberative body, has yet to move toward reauthorization. TAA seems to be on a faster track and some in Congress see TAA as becoming the prime source for serving dislocated workers.

State Performance Measures

The South Dakota Department of Labor (SDDOL) negotiated performance measures for WIA and Wegner Peyser for PY2007 and PY2008. Current performance for adult and dislocated worker programs is on target with the negotiated measures. The youth measures are a concern, especially the younger youth. Those individuals are much harder to serve and have a record of dropping out of things, but they are a group that really needs to be served. SDDOL will work with the South Dakota Career Centers (SDCC), Career Learning Centers (CLC), and Alternative High Schools to do everything possible to meet or exceed performance. A stipulation in performance negotiations would allow performance standards to be renegotiated if SDDOL sees a downward trend in any of the measures.

Workforce Innovation Regional Economic Development (WIRED)

Andy Szilvasi provided information on the WIRED initiative at the April 5, 2007, WDC meeting and the WDC authorized support of the grant application submitted by the SDDOL. The proposal would have provided development of the workforce in the biotechnology industry along the I-90 Corridor. The SDDOL was not chosen to receive a grant. However, the SDDOL is continuing to work with the Governor's Office, the Department of Education, Department of Tourism and State Development, and the Board of Regents to create a comprehensive workforce development plan for the state.

National Emergency Grant

The National Emergency Grant for Disaster Temporary Employment was awarded to SDDOL in response to flood and tornado storms in May 2007 that affected areas mostly along the James River Valley, and a few counties in western South Dakota. The \$660,000 grant will be used to create temporary jobs to assist with the recent flooding and tornado damage. The grant will pay wages for temporary workers working in areas designated for public assistance. The temporary employment could be for six months or until the individual earns \$12,000 in wages. The project can assist individuals in three priority areas. The first priority are individuals determined eligible for disaster unemployment assistance; the second priority are

dislocated workers; and the third are long term unemployed individuals, individuals unemployed for ten weeks or longer.

Cornerstones CLC Accomplishments

Cornerstones CLC in Huron was awarded a \$90,000 grant from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) to provide support for individuals to integrate into the workforce. Transitional services include basic education, employment assistance, post-secondary education, short term training, and other services like childcare, etc. This project will focus on immigrants, limited English speakers, single parents, individuals on public assistance, and individuals who are low income or have difficulty finding employment.

Cornerstones CLC was selected to provide management and administrative services for Huron's Higher Education Center.

New Employee

Tiffany Stoesser began employment with the SDDOL on June 11, 2007. She is a Program Specialist working primarily with the Adult Education and Literacy programs and the GED programs.

AGENDA ITEM D ACTION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM D1 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Cal Geis made a motion to nominate Warren Lotsberg as WDC Chairperson. Grady Kickul seconded the motion. Helen Wegner made a motion to cease nominations. Patricia Kenner seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

D. J. Mertens made a motion to nominate Pat Lund as the Vice Chairperson for the WDC. Wally Myers seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

AGENDA ITEM D2 GED FEE INCREASE

Marcia Hess, SDDOL Program Specialist, explained the need for a fee increase to administer the General Educational Development Test Battery (GED) which leads to a High School Equivalency Certificate. GED Testing Services increased the fee for rental of the battery and the test site fees. The test site fees increased from \$150 to \$175, and the battery rental cost increased from \$70 to \$80. Therefore, the GED testing program is asking the WDC to approve a \$20 application fee, approve and increase the initial GED testing fee from \$60 to \$75, and approve an increase in the re-testing fee from \$12 to \$15. The additional fees would help offset the increasing costs of administering the GED testing.

Wally Myers made a motion to approve the fee increase. Roland Benson seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

AGENDA ITEM E UPDATES

AGENDA ITEM E1 VOLUNTEERS FOR READING AWARD NOMINATIONS

Warren Lotsberg asked for volunteers to read the nominations for the WIA awards. The award winners will be recognized at an awards banquet on September 26, 2007, at the annual WIA conference in Mitchell, South Dakota. Patricia Kenner, Roland Benson, and Ann Gesick-Johnson volunteered to read the nominations.

AGENDA ITEM E2 STATE PLANS DRS/SBVI

Grady Kickul, Division of Rehabilitation Services, provided an update on the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation. At the April 5, 2007, meeting, Grady presented information on the submission of the Vocational Rehabilitation State Plan for the Division of Rehabilitation Services and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired for the federal fiscal year starting October 1, 2007. Vocational Rehabilitation as Title IV of WIA is now in the sixth year of waiting for reauthorization of a federal act. The three-year State Plan was submitted on July 1, 2007, and approval is expected by October 1, 2007.

AGENDA ITEM E3 TECHNICAL INSTITUTES

Mark Wilson, Director of Career and Technical Education, provided information on South Dakota's four technical institutes, and provided a 2006 Placement Report that showed placement activities at the four technical institutes. The information provided is based on a percentage employed in the state, a percentage employed in the field, and a report on the average annual salaries. At upcoming WDC meetings, Mark would like to highlight new programs that are meeting the needs of the regional workforce requests from business and industry.

AGENDA ITEM E4 UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

Paul Gough, Board of Regents, provided reports with information on the university system's contributions to the healthcare workforce. In spring 2007, the South Dakota public universities had about 4,800 students preparing for healthcare careers. The universities graduated healthcare professionals at the associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. The University of South Dakota (USD) held a healthcare summer camp on June 24 - 29, 2007. Fifteen students, thirteen girls and two boys attended. Speakers represented several health professions and South Dakota institutions including USD, Dakota State University, Southeast Technical Institute, Mitchell Technical Institute, and the South Dakota Department of Health.

AGENDA ITEM E5 WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

Ken Sorber, Western Governors University Vice President of Strategic Relations, provided information on Western Governors University (WGU) and the scholarships provided for rural mathematics and science educators. WGU was founded in 1997 by the governors from 19 states. WGU is a unique, competency based, fully-accredited online university. The Teacher's College began in 2003 with a grant from the United States Department of Education. It was intended to be the first national online competency based teacher's college. It now has over 5,000 students enrolled from all 50 states, and can license teachers in 49 of the 50 states.

Recognizing the national shortage of science and math teachers, especially in rural areas, USDOL gave WGU a rather innovative grant to fund rural education. WGU is working with the Departments of Labor in South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, and Utah to develop programs to provide rural areas with highly qualified math and science teachers.

WGU is offering 160 scholarships valued up to \$7,500 for individuals living in rural areas wishing to pursue a career in math and science education. Fifteen scholarships were set aside for South Dakota individuals until the end of October 2007. However, more than 15 scholarships can be awarded to South Dakota individuals. The SDDOL challenged SDCC managers to work with school districts and community leaders to identify and recruit at least two individuals that would be appropriate candidates for the scholarships.

AGENDA ITEM E6 JOB CORPS UPDATE

Bill Molseed, SDDOL Workforce Training Administrator, provided an update on the Job Corps program. The SDDOL submitted a very competitive grant proposal for outreach and admissions to the regional Job Corps office. The proposal was followed by four SDDOL staff traveling to Dallas, Texas, to provide oral presentations on behalf of the SDDOL. After the presentations, the regional office requested additional information which SDDOL provided prior to the July 12, 2007, deadline. The regional Job Corps office then indicated SDDOL was about \$150,000 over the government's estimate so SDDOL agreed to reduce their request and offset the costs by using WIA, Employment Security, and other funds.

AGENDA ITEM E7 YOUTH VISION AND PROGRAMS

Bill McEntaffer, SDDOL Program Specialist, provided an update on the Federal Shared Youth Vision and SDDOL Affiliate Alternative School year end numbers. In 2004, a federal interagency workgroup was created to ensure communications and coordination of agencies serving youth were meeting the needs of the youth. Youth target groups included dropouts, out-of-school youth, foster care, youth aging out of foster care, court involved youth, youth with disabilities, homeless, runaways, Native Americans, children of incarcerated parents, and migrant youth. South Dakota

agencies participating in the planning session in Phoenix, Arizona included Social Services Foster Care, Youth Corrections, and Labor. Projects SDDOL WIA had with STAR Academy and Joe Foss Alternative High School were reviewed and determined to be beneficial. A project encouraging CLCs become involved in transition planning with 17-year-old foster care youth aging out of the program at 18-years-old was set up as a goal. In 2006, 16 pilot states received technical assistance to help define the neediest youth for their state and select programming to assist youth to complete their education and enter training or work; South Dakota was not one of the 16 pilot states. South Dakota continues close working relationships on projects with the South Dakota Department of Corrections (SDDOC) STAR program, the SDDOC WINGS program at Joe Foss Alternative High School, and with the South Dakota Department of Social Services Foster Care program.

The SDDOL will provide the WDC Members regular updates on the youth programs. They will provide an email summary of youth programming, results of the on-site reviews, and information from the monthly reports.

AGENDA ITEM E8 LOCAL EMPLOYMENT DYNAMICS (LMI)

Bernie Moran, SDDOL Labor Market Information Center Administrator, provided information on the local employment dynamics in South Dakota. Local Employment Dynamics (LED) and On the Map are possible due to a partnership between state labor market information agencies and the U.S. Census Bureau. LED is a voluntary federal-state partnership that was started in 1999. Its main purpose is to merge data from workers with data from employers to produce a collection of enhanced labor market statistics known collectively as Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI). South Dakota submitted it Memorandum of Understanding to the Census Bureau on July 2, 2007, and hopes to have online access to the QWI by December 2007. The Census Bureau produces 29 labor force indicators, eight of which are published in QWI online. Local employers can use the QWI data to answer common questions such as where are the workers in my industry and county, how much are workers in my industry paid, and how does my turnover compare to other firms in my industry. Workers can use the data to find out where the jobs are, how much they can expect to be paid in different industries, and how long can they expect the jobs to last.

On the Map (OTM) Version 2, is the next generation of On The Map, a web-based mapping and reporting application. OTM shows where people work and workers live with companion reports on workers' ages, earnings, industry distribution, and local workforce indicators. The phased release of OTM Version 2 will occur between July and September 2007, incorporating new features and up to 44 LED Partner States. South Dakota hopes to be a partner state with the planned implementation to Version 3 in June 2008.

AGENDA ITEM # 5 ADJOURNMENT

The next WDC meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2007, in conjunction with the WIA Conference to be held in Mitchell.

D. J. Mertens moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. CST. The motion was seconded by Cal Geis. **Motion passed.**