

South Dakota Workforce Development Council (SDWDC) Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2015
Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI), Student Center Level 4
1201 Arrow Avenue, Watertown, SD

Chairman Lotsberg called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (CDT). Kari Porch called the roll. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Chairman Warren Lotsberg, Vice-chairman Tom Bohnet, D. J. Mertens, Marcia Hultman, Tiffany Sanderson, Paul Turman, David Giovannini, David Westbrook, Jim Borszich, Lee Anderson, and Cal Geis.

Members Absent: Mark Rogers, Randy Hanson, Eric Weiss, Mary Lahecka-Nelson, and Randy Stainbrook.

Others Present: Director Bill Molseed, Kari Porch, Dawn Dovre, Liza Clark, Tom Hart, Deb Halling, Bill McEntaffer, Kendra Ringstmeyer, Mike Cartney, Craig Atkins, Gwen Kahre, Amanda Seykera, Molly Ehalt, Shane Thorstenson, Mark Anderson, Lisa Johnson, Mike Jennings, Jill Gabel, Jan Larkin, Jessica Fischer, Cathy Benda, Julie Mollenheff, and Laurie Gates.

D.J. Mertens made a motion to approve the March 24, 2015, meeting minutes. Cal Geis seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

Secretary Hultman read a proclamation from Governor Daugaard and a video was shown honoring Bill Molseed for his dedication to the Council and State Government. Bill is retiring from the Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) on June 8, 2015.

Mike Cartney, Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) President, provided an update on LATI. LATI has been the recipient of three Aspen awards for achieving outstanding outcomes in: learning, degree completion, minority and low-income student success, and employment and earnings. Their job placement rate for graduate was 98 percent last year. This success is a result of a close working relationship with the DLR local office, the area high schools, and local businesses and community leaders

Craig Atkins, President of Watertown Development Company provided information on activities accomplished since the implementation of the Community Incentive Matching Grant program. The company actively launched a marketing campaign which included creating a brochure and using social media networks, reaching 80,000 individuals. The company created a matching fund grant program with businesses to provide \$1,000 relocation grants for individuals relocating to the Watertown area. They are working to set up a program to assist spouses of Veterans.

A business panel consisting of Gwen Kahre, Premier BankCard, Molly Ehalt, Worthington Engineered Cabs, and Laurie Gates, ESCO Manufacturing presented information on their businesses.

Premier Bankcard employs 2,080 individuals. Employee referrals (60 percent) and social media are their best hiring strategies. Their employees are allowed to work from home with monthly training at headquarters.

Worthington Engineered Cab has plants in South Dakota (Watertown), Tennessee, and South Carolina. They have a 31 percent turnover rate with much of this a result of newer employees not being able to handle the physical demands (lifting over 50 lbs.) of the job. The business works closely with LATI.

ESCO Manufacturing is a small sign manufacturing business with plants in Webster and Watertown. They have been in business for over 50 years. They have an aging workforce. They have a good working relationship with the DLR and LATI.

Tiffany Sanderson provided two handouts and an update on activities provided through the Department of Education (DOE). Twelve school districts received grants totaling over \$8.5 million to assist in developing Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs. The Build Dakota Scholarship Fund provided more than 250 students with scholarships to our four technical institutes. The students, upon graduation are required to remain in South Dakota for at least three years and work in their field of study.

Bill McEntaffer and Kendra Ringstmeyer provided information on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA), and asked the Council for action on several items. Bill asked the Council to:

1. Recommend to the Governor that the DLR be the designated agency to assist in carrying out the process and procedures for determining the eligibility of training providers.
2. Recommend that eligible training providers with currently approved programs continue that eligibility until December 31, 2015.
3. Recommend that any continued program by a participant under WIA be allowed to complete that program.
4. Recommend that the DLR be designed to authorize other trainings that will assist in meeting the needs of job seekers and businesses.
5. Recommend including substance abuse, underemployed, basic skills deficient and Veterans be included in the "Other" category as targeted groups.

Kendra asked the Council for the following action on the youth program:

1. Recommend the approval of the drafted definition for Additional Assistance.
2. Recommend the approval of the drafted definition of Basic Skills Deficient.
3. Recommend the Council not have a Youth Standing Committee.

Paul Turman made a motion to group the actions for the Adult / Dislocated program and group the actions for the Youth program. Jim Borszich seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

David Westbrook made a motion to approve the adult / Dislocated Worker requirements. D. J. Mertens seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

David Westbrook made a motion to approve Kendra's recommendations for the youth program. Tom Bohnet seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m. CDT.