

**SD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
Regular Quarterly Meeting  
October 10, 2012  
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon  
Conference Call**

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| A. Call to Order       | Warren Lotsberg    |
| B. Roll Call           | Kari Porch         |
| C. Approval of Minutes | Warren Lotsberg    |
| D. Director's Report   | Bill Molseed       |
| E. New Business        |                    |
| 1. Dakota Seeds        | Ann Gesick-Johnson |
| F. Adjournment         |                    |

**AGENDA ITEM A      CALL TO ORDER**

The South Dakota Workforce Development Council (WDC) met by conference call on October 10, 2012. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Warren Lotsberg at 10:00 a.m. CST.

**AGENDA ITEM B      ROLL CALL**

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was present.

Members Present

Warren Lotsberg, Chairman	Sarah Folsland	Marcia Hultman
Tom Bohnet, Vice-Chairman	Wally Myers	Cal Geis
Ann Gesick-Johnson	Grady Kickul	David Westbrook
David Giovannini	Randy Hanson	

Members Absent

Shelley Stingley	Paul Gough	D.J. Mertens
Melody Schopp		

Others Present

Bill Molseed	Kari Porch	Barb Unruh
John Anderson	Deb Halling	Jamie Maine
Tia Kafka		

**AGENDA ITEM C      APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

David Giovannini made a motion to approve the July 31, 2012 minutes. Wally Myers seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**AGENDA ITEM D      DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

A telephone conference call is the most efficient and economical way for us to conduct our business when we have a short agenda.

**Federal Updates**

Continuing Resolution

A continuing resolution passed Congress and was signed by the President. The resolution funds federal government for six months, through March 27, 2013. Most accounts funded in fiscal year 2012 will be funded at PY12 levels. This resolution was necessary since Congress has so far failed to pass any of the dozen annual appropriation bills that fund discretionary programs.

### Sequestration

Sequestration is something you may be hearing about on the news, as a result, of the Budget Control Act from December 2011. Funds were made available for government operations with a stipulation for Congress to reign in federal spending. If Congress fails to act by the end of the year, automatic, across the board cuts will take place in January 2013. If these budget cuts take place, we can expect an 8.2 percent reduction in funds available to us for the current program year. For a small state with minimum funding, any reduction in funds presents a difficult situation. This issue is compounded since it would come half way through the program year. It is anyone's guess as to what may or may not happen.

### **State Updates**

#### State Plan

The Workforce Investment (WIA) / Wagner Peyser (W-P) Five Year State Plan was a huge team effort. The plan is based on the Governor's workforce development initiative, South Dakota WINS. The Governor is committed to maintaining our quality of life and growing our economy. South Dakota WINS is a workforce development program that brings together government, education, and business leaders to capitalize on the state's tremendous potential. Our State Plan builds on many of the components of the Governor's initiative, the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), Dakota Roots, and technical skills training. The plan outlines the current and projected state of the economy, the structure of how services are delivered through the Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR), our proposed WIA and W-P performance measures. It also outlines services for employers and individuals, and the populations targeted for assistance (Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients, unemployed, dislocated workers, veterans, Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) / Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients, older workers, and farmworkers.). The plan includes Memorandums of Understandings with our partners. The State Plan is available on the DLR website. The address has been included in your packet. [http://dlr.sd.gov/workforce\\_training/wia.aspx](http://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_training/wia.aspx).

#### Annual Report - Program Year 2011 (July 2011 – June 2012)

The PY 2011 WIA Annual Report was submitted to the USDOL. This report, included with your workforce council member packet, highlights the accomplishments of the program, provides success stories, describes the services provided, and lists performance and cost information. The WIA program met all nine performance goals and exceeded six of the nine measures. I am very proud of the level of performance achieved by our participants through the services provided by our local office WIA staff. This however, is tempered with a review of the performance data showing a slight downward trend. Although we are currently meeting the expectations, we are taking steps to address any downward movement in the level of performance. This will be addressed through continued professional development trainings

with local office staff. We also must improve the follow-up services with all participants to provide all necessary services leading to a successful outcome for the individual. Both of these action steps are being taken, along with continued technical assistance made available for our local staff.

### NEG-OJT

A final push was given to the NEG-OJT program. This was a program targeting long term unemployed dislocated workers. Nationally this program has had difficulty with enrollment numbers and expenditures. This too, has been the issue in South Dakota. As our businesses came out of the recession, many of the dislocated workers were recalled and went back to work. Others have been enrolled in other WIA training programs and have moved on the other gainful employment. The few eligible individuals we were able to recruit were enrolled in the NEG-OJT program. The program goal was to serve 100 participants. At the last count, we had 81 individuals enrolled and are likely to extend over 90 percent of the \$617,040 committed to the program.

### Data Validation and Local Office On-site Monitors

The WIA Team has started our local office visits for Data Validation review and WIA program monitors. We have revised the WIA monitors to include more Equal Opportunity evaluations to ensure compliance with the requirements. The monitor includes a pre-visit questionnaire with items on the recruitment process, enrollment process, service delivery, budget management, follow-up, confidentiality, and questions for the manager of budgeting and staffing processes. The local office visit will conduct a review of the files and interviews with staff to learn how WIA is delivered in the office. Technical assistance will be arranged accordingly and best practices highlighted.

### SPR – WIA Gold Standard Evaluation

The study is nearing completion. This is the project where individuals are randomly selected for specific levels of WIA services (core only, core and intensive only, and full-service). Once we have the targeted numbers in each of the control groups we will be done “spinning the wheel” as to which group the participants will be assigned. The study will not be complete until 15 months after the last selection. We anticipate the process for selections will be complete by the end of November, assuming our WIA enrollments maintain at the current rate. Once we hit these targets, local office staff will be free to use any or all of the WIA services for eligible candidates as appropriate.

### DEI – Disability Employment Initiative

We were very pleased with the closeout comments from two separate reviews of the DEI grant. USDOL consultants of the National Disability Institute and Social Dynamics conducted an on-site evaluation of our program. The review teams were very thrilled with what they saw and the progress we have made

in one year of the three-year grant. Comments we received after the review were very positive.

- “The work that is being done by the South Dakota DEI Project to promote and secure employment for youth with disabilities is in one word “impressive”.
- “What you are working towards and accomplishing in South Dakota is EXACTLY what the DEI is all about.”
- “I can honestly say that in my twelve years of being part of the national training and TA team, I have not been as impressed as I was of the work that the South Dakota DEI is doing and will do over the course of this grant”.

Business, as usual, in our programs is truly exceptional. Often times we forget that and take it for granted. Very few states can deliver as we do in South Dakota.

#### Technical Institutions receive grants

Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) and Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) are recipients of significant funding from the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act (TAA) grants for community colleges.

MTI received \$2.5 million to provide a distance education model for providing technical education in rural areas.

LATI is part of a consortium of seven community colleges and technical institutes that received \$4.1 million. This project is to provide stackable certificates for working adults while pursuing academic credentials.

The DLR was actively engaged with the technical institutes as they prepared their applications. We have established a close working relationship with our educational partners.

## **AGENDA ITEM E      NEW BUSINESS**

### **AGENDA ITEM E1      DAKOTA SEEDS**

Ann Gesick-Johnson, Department of Tourism and State Development, provided information on eight businesses applying for funding through Dakota Seeds. The eight businesses were asking for funding for ten interns, one Master’s level Graduate Assistant, two PhD level Graduate Assistants for funding totaling \$48,000. She requested approval for Dakota Seeds to provide funding for the following businesses.

Prairie AquaTech in Brookings is a research-driven company that develops novel aquaculture feeds. The company has requested five interns and four graduate assistants to assist them with their work. Dakota Seeds recommended funding four interns and a master’s level assistant

for a total of \$16,000. Dakota Seeds recommends denying the other requests due to a cap of five interns stated in the program guidelines.

CyanoSun Energy in Brookings develops novel cyanobacteria that produce high value industrial chemicals. The company has requested an intern to assist with their research. Dakota Seeds recommends funding one intern at \$2,000.

Nanofiber Separations in Rapid City is developing surface functionalized nanofibers for a variety of separation applications. The company is requesting two PhD students to work in all phases of the development process. Dakota Seeds recommends funding two PhD level assistants for a total of \$20,000.

DigSandbox in Sioux Falls provides online curriculum for MBA program teaching digital media. They are requesting an intern to develop the platform for delivering this curriculum. Dakota Seeds recommends funding an intern at \$2,000.

Lemon.ly in Sioux Falls is a visual marketing firm. They are requesting an intern to develop web interfaces for their clients. Dakota Seeds recommends funding an intern at \$2,000.

Ness Tax & Bookkeeping Service in Sioux Falls provides tax preparations and accounting services. They are requesting ten interns to provide assistance with these core activities. Dakota Seeds recommends denying the request as accounting activities will not meet the math requirements of the National Science Foundation.

G# Fire in Hartford fabricates polypropylene tanks for the fire service industry. They are requesting an intern to do design and drafting work. Dakota Seeds recommends funding an intern at \$2,000.

iNK Barrel Video Network in Rapid City provides online video solutions for newspapers and other media companies. They are requesting two interns to work on software coding. Dakota Seeds recommends funding two interns for a total of \$4,000.

Cal Geis made a motion to approve the recommendations made by Dakota Seeds. David Giovannini seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

## **AGENDA ITEM F      ADJOURNMENT**

Wally Myers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. David Westbrook seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**