

MEETING RE-CAP
PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
October 26, 2010

The Planning & Oversight Committee of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of Solano County met on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 320 Campus Lane, Fairfield, CA 94534. The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carlos Borba
Bob Brewer
George Dudikoff

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Mike Ammann
Paul Castro
Frank Crim
Patrick Duterte
Lou Franchimon
Fadi Halabi
Lorenda Sanchez
Sue Vaccaro

STAFF PRESENT

Marion Aiken, Workforce Services Manager
Robert Bloom, Executive Director
Cheryl Joseph, Business/Employment Services Manager
Kitt Lee, Fiscal/Information Manager
Tamara Moon, Corporate/Board Liaison

I. Welcome/Convening

Executive Director, Mr. Robert Bloom, welcomed all members and the meeting was convened.

II. Updates

A. On-the-Job Training (OJT) Activities

Discussion: Robert Bloom asked Cheryl Joseph to give an overview of the OJT rollout. Ms. Joseph reported funding for the following programs:

- The Adult Program has \$17,000 to serve 5 clients
- The Dislocated Worker Program has \$22,000 to serve 4-5 clients
- The two Vets Programs has \$10,000 to serve 2 clients
- The NUMMI Program has \$11,000 to serve 2 clients
- The NEG OJT Program has \$155,800 to serve 33 clients

Ms. Joseph explained the process of reimbursements to Employers and the reimbursement amounts for each program. She announced that the WIB Business Services Representatives are beginning to “sell” the OJT Program to local Employers to identify OJT opportunities, and will begin screening active WIA clients who are currently attending the Networking Club in Fairfield or the Hidden Jobs Club in Vallejo for OJT placement.

B. NEG NUMMI Project

Discussion: Mr. Bloom reported that WIB has had difficulty recruiting and enrolling clients in the NUMMI project despite all efforts staff has made to locate them. Enrollments are at 30 now with 15 in training and the other 15 in Job Search. Staff will continue to exhaust every opportunity to fill the enrollments for this project so that WIB will not have to turn money back over to the State.

C. Clean Energy Workforce Training Project

Discussion: Solano WIB received \$225,000 to serve 75 clients. Currently, staff is serving 42 enrollments. Thirty of them have completed two out of three training modules. One difficulty is that people are not passing tests to move on to module three. Those who have completed module three are struggling to find employment in the field.

III. Updates on Services for Offenders

A. Launch of “Transitions” Project at Vacaville Prison

Discussion: Robert Bloom reminded members that the New Start Program was implemented 2-3 years ago and Solano WIB was 1 of 6 demonstration sites. Although funding was promised to WIB in order to become a major service provider for ex-offenders, to date the money has not been received. WIB did, however, receive a small grant to offer post release services at the One-Stop, but 1/3 of the funding was recently taken back by the State since most of the CA WIBs were under spending. Solano WIB has spent all funding for the 2010-11 year. New allocations were supposed to follow. Staff is waiting this week to hear about another source of funding which will be going to 19 WIBs.

Solano WIB is one of four WIBs asked to go out to the local prison and provide pre-release services to offenders waiting to be released and funding has been received for this project. Cheryl Joseph reported that the Transitions Project began on October 11, 2010 at the California State Prison in Vacaville. WIB has two full time staff members teaching job readiness workshops to prisoners who are 60-120 days away from being released.

B. Community Employment Program

Discussion: Robert Bloom asked Kitt Lee, Fiscal/Information Services Manager, to give a brief summary of the Community Employment Program. Ms. Lee explained that the Program was started through the One-Stop to provide a light touch, short term assistance, and personal attention to parolees. The plan was to provide fairly quick, short term and cheap intervention since the ex-offender population tends to want to go back to work rather than school or training. Staff was successful in connecting with parolees and getting hundreds of them into the One-Stop. Even though the budget was cut 40%, WIB was able to retain its Navigator in the One-Stop. Since WIB has not received funding yet; staff is trying to figure out how many parolees to enroll. The priority is to keep the One-Stop connection going with the Navigator, instead of trying to provide intensive services to individuals. Staff is still waiting to hear about funding.

C. Solano County Re-entry Council

Discussion: Robert Bloom asked Kitt Lee, Re-entry Council Committee Chair, to update members on the Re-entry Council. Ms. Lee explained that the Solano Re-entry Council is modeled after others in the State. The idea is that Partners in the community come together and work together to provide re-entry services and resources to ex-offenders. Ms. Lee

reviewed and discussed the Solano County Re-entry Council Strategic Plan Fiscal Year 2010/11 to 2013/14 (handout).

IV. Gaining Input from Employers on Hiring Ex-offenders

A. Purpose Behind Effort

Discussion: Robert Bloom stated that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger did not keep his emphasis on the ex-offender New Start Program and the issue has lost the political imperative that might have come from the Governor down. He expressed hope that the downward trend of funding will change once a new Governor is elected.

Mr. Bloom stated the need for support from Board members and asked members to step up to the plate to be the employers' "voice" to talk about some innovative ideas to assist the ex-offender population in finding employment.

Mr. Bloom stated that this issue will be taken up further at the November 19, 2010 Board meeting at which time the full Board will be engaged.

V. WIB Executive Director's Report

Mr. Bloom asked Ms. Cheryl Joseph, Business/Employment Services Manager, to give a summary of the October 7, 2010 Career Fair. Ms. Joseph reported that approximately 2,000 job seekers attended the Career Fair with 211 of them being WIB clients. There were 82 Employers (all hiring) and 27 Sponsors. WIB received \$5,850 in cash donations.

VI. Other Business

None

VII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Planning and Oversight Committee of the Workforce Investment Board of Solano County is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 28, 2010 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the **WIB offices**, 320 Campus Lane, Fairfield, CA 94534.