

MEETING RE-CAP
PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
April 27, 2010

The Planning & Oversight Committee of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of Solano County met on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 320 Campus Lane, Fairfield, CA 94534. The meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Ammann
George Dudikoff
Fadi Halabi

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Carlos Borba
Bob Brewer
Paul Castro
Frank Crim
Patrick Duterte
Lou Franchimon
Debby Fries
Lorenda Sanchez
Sue Vaccaro

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Bloom, Executive Director
Cheryl Joseph, Business/Employment Services Manager
Tamara Moon, Corporate/Board Liaison

I. Welcome/Convening

Committee Chair, Fadi Halabi, welcomed all members and the meeting was convened.

II. Update on ARRA Economic Stimulus Efforts

A. Status on Program Efforts

Discussion: Mr. Bloom highlighted the following ways that WIB has used the Economic Stimulus money:

- ▶ Expanded training opportunities for the unemployed clients in the Adult and Dislocated Workers Programs. Very few slots are open for enrollment.
- ▶ Hired additional Navigators for the One-Stop Career Centers.
- ▶ Rented additional space.
- ▶ Increased the number of workshops offered in the One-Stop Career Centers including general workshops, skill specific training, and career specific training.
- ▶ Lastly, the 2009 Summer Youth Work Experience Program was very successful.

B. Utilization of Funds

Discussion: Mr. Bloom reported that even with the pressure to spend quickly, an exemplary job was done utilizing the ARRA funds. By June 30, 2010, 75% of ARRA funds will have been spent and by September 30, 2010, all 100% of ARRA funds will be spent.

C. Carry-over into 2010-11

Discussion: Mr. Bloom reported that \$180,000 of ARRA funds will carry-over and be utilized to run a small 2010 Summer Youth Program.

III. Update on New Federal Jobs-related Legislation/Appropriations

Discussion: Mr. Bloom reported that there will not be another ARRA Stimulus program. However, there is talk of a Jobs Bill. The one recently passed gives credits to employers' extension of unemployment insurance benefits. There is nothing included in this Jobs Bill as far as funding for the WIB system. The only thing on the table right now is the possibility of supplemental funding for Summer 2010 Youth Programs.

IV. Expansion of Offender/Ex-offender Programs

A. New Start (Increments 1 and 2)

Discussion: As one of six demo sites, WIB has been involved with Offender/Ex-offender programs including the New Start Program. Since many other WIBs were grossly underspending the funding, 2/3 of funding was taken away. As a result, Solano WIB has lost \$75,571 for the New Start Program. If additional funding had been received, WIB staff would have started enrolling Ex-offenders into more intensive training and employment activities. At this point, WIB will have to cut back to just the basic navigator services as currently offered.

B. Pre-release Program

Discussion: WIB has been asked to do a pre-release program at the Vacaville Prison which would entail having two full time staff members facilitating workshops. The funding, however, keeps shrinking and is now at \$190,000 - \$215,000 which is down from \$300,000. Mr. Bloom has been assured that the funding is secure and is in place for four WIBs to run pre-release programs. WIB HR has completed the recruitment process with a new job description. Over 20 applications were received.

V. Update: 2010 Summer Youth Program

Discussion: Mr. Bloom announced that WIB is definitely running a Summer 2010 Youth Work Experience Program. WIB has not started the youth recruitment yet since staff does not know the exact funding amount. Staff is waiting to see if Congress will provide special, new funding for the 2010 Summer Youth Employment Program and may not know until possibly the end of May. The existing Worksite Agreement expires June 30, 2010, and has been revised/updated and will be good for five years.

WIB HR is in the process of recruiting Summer Youth Counselors and Intake staff.

VI. Status on Clean Energy Workforce Training Program Grant

Discussion: The Northbay Employment Connection group received a \$1 million grant for one of the Governor's energy initiative programs called the California Clean Energy Workforce Training Program (CCEWTP). Solano County has received \$225,000 to serve 75 enrollments. Funds will be used to train unemployed construction workers.

WIB went through a formal Request for Proposals process. Several qualified vendors have been lined up for various training modules in a wide array of occupational areas. All 75 participants will receive Green Building Code Training and Green Professional Training and then choose one of 10 areas to specialize in. An industry-recognized certificate will be issued at the end of training.

Staff is now ready to enroll the first CCEWTP project participants; however, very limited recruitment has occurred so far. WIB will be approaching the construction trades unions first to see if they have unemployed workers who would like to upgrade their green skills making them more employable.

VII. Dedicated Veterans Programs

A. “VetLink” Project

Discussion: The first year funding of \$500,000 ended in December 2009. WIB is now in line to receive the second increment of \$500,000. The funding was supposed to be received in January 2010. WIB has not received official notice/approval yet; however, staff has been assured that the funding is coming and will be moving forward with the project.

B. “VetTrain” Application

Discussion: The state released a Request for Proposal approximately 1 ½ months ago for a new round of vets funding. After determining WIB’s eligibility to apply, a proposal for \$1 million was submitted for a project called VetTrain. This project requires that 100% of participants receive vocational training. If awarded, the funding will be used to serve 160 vets; 130 vets will receive training in green and clean energy related fields and 30 will receive training as Psych Techs. WIB has a committed match of \$400,000 - \$600,000 from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and a \$300,000 match by Employment Development Department (EDD). Bonus points are awarded for matches.

VIII. New Program Initiatives

A. Elevate America

Discussion: Mr. Bloom reported at the last meeting that Microsoft approached 7-8 states with free training for people to learn Microsoft applications. They issued 176,000 certificates in California and asked local One-Stops to participate. Approximately 1,700 vouchers were available in Solano County. To date, 900 vouchers have been issued. All 1,700 have to be used over 90 days.

B. NUMMI/Suppliers Project

Discussion: Mr. Bloom announced that Solano WIB has submitted a proposal of \$669,000 to help with the NUMMI closure in Fremont involving 4,700 workers and approximately 10,000 suppliers. WIB has agreed to service 40 workers and 40 suppliers. There are 57 NUMMI employees and an uncertain number of suppliers living in Solano County.

C. State OJT NEG Application

Discussion: WIB staff has submitted a proposal to receive \$480,000 (out of \$17 million available) to serve 60 people with on-the-job training in Clean and Green Energy, Healthcare and Transportation & Distribution.

IX. President’s Report

Mr. Bloom had nothing further to report.

X. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Planning and Oversight Committee of the Workforce Investment Board of Solano County is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 22, 2010 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the **WIB offices**, 320 Campus Lane, Fairfield, CA 94534.