

MEETING RE-CAP
POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
February 24, 2009

The Policy and Planning Committee of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of Solano County met on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 320 Campus Lane, Fairfield, CA 94534. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

George Dudikoff
Lou Franchimon
Fadi Halabi
Dennis Scott

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Patrick Duterte
Kevin Johnson
Bill Reardon

STAFF PRESENT

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

I. Welcome/Convening

II. October 30, 2008 Meeting Recap

There were no corrections, deletions or additions to the October 30, 2008 Meeting Recap notes.

III. Recap: Priorities from January 24, 2009 Board Retreat

The January 24 Retreat was held at the corporate headquarters of the NorthBay Healthcare organization, and was facilitated by Stephen Thomas of the Results Group. The focus of this year's Retreat included the change in the Nation's and County's economies leading to higher unemployment and the upcoming Economic Stimulus efforts being proposed by the new President and Congress. To summarize, the '09 – '11 priorities were identified as follows:

- To build the capacity of the WIB organization in order to address the changing economy and assist with new economic stimulus efforts;
- To develop/provide appropriate program services for both jobseekers and employers;
- To expand visibility and promote WIB services; and
- To increase effectiveness in influencing the landscape of workforce development programs.

IV. Funding Impact with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Stimulus Package

A. Increased WIA Funding Allocations

Discussion: Mr. Bloom referred Committee members to a handout which gave an overview of the likely impacts of WIA funding under the pending American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These funds will go to WIB's Adult Programs (\$500 million), Dislocated Worker Programs (\$1 billion), and Youth Programs (\$1.2 billion). The funds will additionally allow enhancements to the One Stop Career Center operations.

B. Discretionary WIA Funding Opportunities

Discussion: Mr. Bloom reported that there will be large amounts of discretionary funds available. His intent is for Solano WIB along with partners to conduct aggressive grants seeking efforts with an emphasis on "Green"/energy careers, Healthcare careers and responses to closures and layoffs.

C. 320 Campus Lane Facilities Expansion

Discussion: Mr. Bloom reported that with additional WIA stimulus dollars expected for expanded Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs, added space to accommodate the increased staff needs and One Stop services will be necessary. WIB staff will be making a recommendation to the Executive Committee at their meeting later this week to approve an Addendum to the current Lease of 320 Campus Lane to include Suite A and Suite D. The expanded space would provide an additional 5,000 square feet that would be opened to adjoin the space we already occupy in Suite A.

D. Staffing Increases

Discussion: With the expansion of the Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs, Mr. Bloom briefly discussed the need to also increase WIB staff in the very near future.

V. Update on Grant Seeking Activity

A. NBEC – DOL Regional Innovations Grant

Discussion: Mr. Robert Bloom reported that WIB, on behalf of NBEC, submitted a concept paper to the Department of Labor for a \$250,000 strategic planning proposal. The purpose is to target the energy industry. If funded, staff will procure and contract with a research consultant to produce a strategic plan for this proposal.

B. Ex-Offender Re-entry Initiative

Discussion: Mr. Bloom reported that there have been no updates on funding; however, the One-Stop is continuing to assist in the re-entry of the ex-offender population into Solano County by providing job search tools and community resource information so they can improve their potential employability.

**C. Solano County Health & Social Services Employment Services
Request for Proposal**

Discussion: Mr. Bloom reported that Solano County Health & Social Services has put out a Request for Proposals for Employment Services. WIB is in its third year of their current three year contract with the County Health & Social Services Department to provide Employment Services. The contract is due to expire on June 30, 2009. Mr. Bloom informed Committee members that due to unreasonable expectations outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP), WIB staff, with the support of WIB Board Chair, Sue Vaccaro, had no intentions of submitting an application. A discussion ensued followed by a brief

question and answer period. Mr. Bloom reported that this discussion will also take place with the WIB Executive Committee at their meeting later this week.

VI. Executive Director's Update

Discussion: Mr. Bloom announced that the ground-breaking for the new hospital near CMF in Vacaville will be Fall 2009 and the opening will be sometime in 2012. The hospital will bring approximately 1,300 jobs to Solano County.

VII. Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee of the Workforce Investment Board of Solano County is scheduled for **Thursday, April 23, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**, at the **WIB offices**, 320 Campus Lane, Fairfield, CA 94534.