

NORTHEAST MINNESOTA OFFICE OF JOB TRAINING

ELECTED OFFICIAL BOARD

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Virginia Workforce Center

Chair Eichorn called a regularly scheduled meeting of the Local Elected Official Board to order at 1:07 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Rusty Eichorn	Kevin Adee	Garry Gamble	Tom Proulx
Brian Napstad	Tom Rukavina		

Excused: Pete Walsh

Staff: Michelle Ufford, Randy Lampton, Renee' Marconett

Motion was made by Napstad; supported by Gamble to approve the December 8, 2016 revised agenda as written; with no additions; motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Proulx; supported by Napstad to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting with two revisions; "proposal" changed to "proposed" and "Great" changed to "Greater"; motion carried unanimously.

Ufford presented County Commissioners Eichorn, Gamble, and Napstad with plaques thanking them for their years of service on the Local Elected Official Board. The Northeast Office of Job Training appreciates their support over the years. Other board members commended the outgoing commissioners on the great work and expertise they provided while serving their counties.

Handout #1 - Funding Summary October 2016. The Office of Job Training is in the process of transferring \$175,000 from the Federal dislocated worker grant to the WIOA Adult fund, due to a greater demand for low income adults returning to post-secondary training. This transfer will be reflected on the next monthly summary breakout. MFIP and DWP funds for 2016 will be expended by the end of December. We are waiting on new MFIP contracts for 2017.

Handout #2 – Talent Development Program. The Talent Development Program (TDP) is business driven funding assistance for qualifying Minnesota businesses to provide skills training to full-time permanent employees. The program is meant to offset the employer costs to train and upgrade the skills of current workers by providing reimbursement to eligible businesses for specific training costs accrued during the course of training. Eligible businesses must articulate that by receiving funding assistance through the program that their business will not only improve the skills of their workforce but also improve their business processes and competitiveness and/or avert a layoff. Eligible employees must be at least 18 years of age, work at least 32 hours per week and be committed to attending all trainings; must earn an hourly wage above the state minimum wage and agree to cooperate with data collection requirements. Businesses must contribute a portion of the training costs through direct cost contribution or in-kind contributions based on employer size. Examples of in-kind contributions include: Expenses associated with the use of on-site space and equipment during the training; trainee wages, including benefits; required travel/lodging, and direct training costs. The maximum award per employer each grant year is \$25,000 (may be adjusted based upon funding available each program year). Initial training duration may not exceed twelve months, and funds will be awarded on a first come-first served basis.

IRRRB has contacted Ufford in contributing a portion of matching funds for the Talent Development Program. They are also interested in offering a grant to the NE MN Office of Job Training for coordinating career awareness events. A meeting will be held in January to establish a proposal and move forward with this initiative.

Handout #3 – Construct Tomorrow Recap. The 1st annual Iron Range Construct Tomorrow event took place in October and was a great success. Fourteen trade unions, three technical schools, and 18 high schools participated. Over 483 high school students attended the event. Questionnaire responses from students included – 48% were interested in a career in the skilled trades both before and after the event; 20% were not interested before the event, but now are after coming; 96% would recommend the event to others; and 7.92% average rating of the event (1-10 scale). Feedback from Teachers and Guidance Counselors – Two thirds had activities before the event, and are planning activities after the event as well. 81% believe this event should be held every year and 9.19% average rating of the event (1-10 scale). This will be an annual event in the fall, and Duluth will host the event each spring.

Asset Mapping Project Update. The UMD Bureau of Business and Economic Research are in the process of developing a survey tool to use with service providers. A final draft of the survey should be completed by the first week of December. Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency and Department of Rehab Services will be pilot survey participants, along with a smaller organization to get a better idea what services are offered to make this tool effective. The Workforce Investment Board has been in contact with United Way 211 to get additional information that is contained in their Information and Referral data base system. Commissioners will be updated as project progresses.

The Blandin Foundation is interested in working together with the Office of Job Training to develop a youth internship program in Itasca County. They have funded different workforce development efforts through the Chamber and know we are active in working with youth through the Career EdVenture program in the schools and summer youth projects. An application will be composed sometime in the future and the process of piecing together different threads of workforce development will be discussed.

Following review of two new Northeast Workforce Investment Board memberships and nominations; **motion was made by Rukavina, supported by Proulx, appointing John Galo, Director of Employee/Labor Relations at ALLETE; and Wade Fauth, Vice President of the Blandin Foundation; motion carried unanimously.**

Ufford read an article written by Career Counselor Teri Dudley, outlining the great success of the FastTRAC Corrections training program offered at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Board members were given copies of the 2016 DEED Labor Market Information Regional Profile and the Fiscal Audit Report for 2016.

Motion made by Rukavina, supported by Gamble to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2017.