

IDAHO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes April 18, 2007, Boise, Idaho

Call to Order and Introductions

Con Paulos, chair, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. He noted that several members were unable to attend but that a quorum was present. Con asked each member to introduce him/herself and provide some personal background and why they have an interest in the work force development system. As this was the first meeting of the newly formed Executive Committee, there were no minutes to approve.

Council Goals and Objectives (Transmittal #1)

Cheryl Brush provided a brief history of the council's goal-setting process and how the current goals and objectives had been established. At previous meetings, the council had decided to review the current goals and objectives and perhaps modify them as opposed to starting anew. Cheryl asked the members to look at the attachment, which lays out each goal, objective and action steps.

The first goal deals with the entire work force development and education system and illustrates the broad involvement the council can choose to take. For example, the first objective deals with early childhood services and is an objective that has been identified by the Department of Health and Welfare. This led to a discussion of what services are now available such as Head Start and the need for services given the realities of single-parent households and both parents having to work. Dave Whaley noted the 2007 Idaho Legislature did not support these early childhood issues. Con suggested connecting parental occupational training with child care so there would be an incentive for the parent to enter more long-term training that leads to better paying jobs. The committee adopted an objective for the council to be a vocal supporter of child care licensing and provider background checks for all child care businesses.

The committee discussed at length the need to improve the K-12 system so that it better prepares students for the 21st Century economy. Cheryl noted the council previously has gone on record in support of measures to enhance STEM curricula (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and the Legislature had approved the State Board of Education's proposals in this regard. Dr. Jim Schmidt expressed his opinion that the Tech-Prep is a good example of how this can be done, but the program needs to be widely available throughout the state and have funding stability. Con added that the system needs to create a "passion" for a career as well as life-long learning.

The committee asked that an action step be added that states career information and planning services adopt the career/occupational cluster concepts.

The other listed goals and objectives were reviewed and discussed. The committee accepted them as presented although the final version to be submitted to the full council will include some clarification and restatements. The package will be presented at the next council meeting.

Workforce Report (Transmittal #2)

Cheryl reviewed the status of the report and an outline for its final version. The report year will be 2006 but the data will have a span of 2005-2006 given the variation of fiscal and programs. She asked for ideas concerning a report title or theme. Dr. Schmidt suggested "Innovative People - Education and Workforce." The final report will be presented at the next council meeting.

Workforce Investment Act Plan (Transmittal #3)

Leandra Burns reported the state had received its PY07 WIA and Wagner-Peyser (Employment Service) allocations and instructions for preparing the next two-year installment of the five-year plan that was effective PY05. Once again Idaho has lost substantial WIA funding, mainly due to the state's low unemployment rate and how that factors into the national allocation formula. Adult and Youth funding is down 10 percent from last year and the Dislocated Worker program will receive 13 percent less. These funding amounts are less than one-half the amounts received in 2002. Therefore, the state is proposing to continue its basic service delivery strategy and to take advantage of regulatory waivers, fund leveraging and administrative efficiencies whenever possible. Current service providers will be retained unless their performance is unacceptable or if the funding cuts they will have to sustain lead to their declining to offer services. Leandra noted that the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration is encouraging more services to out-of-school youth. Lastly, Leandra reported WIA reauthorization is still on Congress' agenda but that the outcome is uncertain. Idaho should proceed as usual and not anticipate any new legislation. Leandra asked the committee to recommend the adoption of the general planning strategy and submission of waivers.

Dr. Schmidt asked why the council should endorse a potential movement of money from in-school programs to an out-of-school youth emphasis. If the in-school programs were working satisfactorily, why would we want to eliminate them? Karen McGee said the Gear-up program being developed by the State Board of Education might be a good resource for the in-school population. Jim Schmidt moved to recommend to the council the planning decisions described be approved. Dave Whaley seconded and the motion passed.

Council Operating Budget (Transmittal #4)

Cheryl presented a draft budget for the Idaho Workforce Development Council. The \$32,000 budget for PY07 covers council members' travel and training costs and meeting facility and other costs. She noted that partner agencies have agreed to provide funds for this budget and have assigned staff to support the council. Jim Schmidt moved and Dave Whaley seconded the budget's adoption.

New Business

Con asked for any new business. There was none. The next council meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2007, in Boise.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Attendance

Committee Members:

John Currin
Millie Flandro
Betty Kerr
Jan Nielsen
Con Paulos
Jim Schmidt
B.J. Swanson
Dave Whaley

Guests:

Jim Adams
Susan Baca
Cheryl Brush
Leandra Burns
Jay Engstrom
Karen McGee
Alice Taylor