

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Minutes of January 28, 2005

Welcome and Introductions

Chair McGee called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and then asked members and guests to introduce themselves. She noted there were several new Council members in attendance.

Consent Agenda

Chair McGee reviewed the Consent Agenda and the items from the September 16, 2004 Council meeting that needed to be officially accepted at today's meeting because there was not a quorum at the September meeting. The Minutes of the February 13, 2004 meeting and the September 16, 2004 meeting were also included for approval.

The wording of the Council's recommendation concerning the need for a community college in Southwestern Idaho was discussed. The Chair recommended language that acknowledges the Council's support for a new community college as well as support of the entire system but at the same time recognizes funding and other details, such as "ownership" (BSU or some other entity), are important issues that have to be worked out. The Council's priority should be Southwestern Idaho, but with the understanding the entire system's adequacy be looked at later. **Steve Ahrens moved the Council adopt this language; Karl Kurtz seconded. Dr. Jerry Beck offered a substitute motion that deletes reference to Southwestern Idaho by substituting "comprehensive, statewide community college system". Dr. Beck's motion was seconded by Millie Flandro but failed on a show-of-hands vote of 9 to 8. The original motion was passed unanimously.** The Chair will discuss this recommendation with the State Board of Education and the Governor.

The Chair called for approval of the Consent Agenda and prior meeting minutes. The Council approved both minutes and all items in the Consent Agenda with the community college recommendation as approved today.

Report from the Chair

Chair McGee reported on a conference she attended recently. The conference focused on the need for and ways to strengthen the ties between secondary education and workplace success. A particular need is to stress the importance of math and science education to work demands.

Millie Flandro said there is a desperate need but it is difficult to have young students make this connection. Jerry agreed on the need but said there is a need to stress the "soft skills", too, if the school-work connection is to be successful. Dr. Dene Thomas praised the success of the Tech-Prep program in her area (Lewiston).

The Chair asked Cheryl Brush, Idaho Commerce and Labor, to report on the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. Cheryl said a bill has been introduced in the House and Senate. Both versions are similar to those passed by the House and Senate during the last Congress. She also said the Employment and Training Administration is promoting new initiatives via planning and reporting guidelines. Cheryl noted the President's budget was expected to have significant

reductions in funding. The Chair asked Ms. Brush to continue to keep the Council informed of Congressional action.

Early Care & Learning Cross Systems Task Force

Blossom Johnston, staff to the Governor's Coordinating Council for Families and Children, reported on the status and activities of the Early Care and Learning Cross Systems Task Force, which was formed as a result of a recommendation of the Governor's Coordinating Council for Families and Children. She shared information on the task force's vision and mission, guiding principles, focus areas, and 10 shared goals, which were designed to build a strong statewide framework to strengthen families and support community-based early care and learning.

Seven regional forums held throughout the state allowed for public input. The outcome of these was to instill more of an understanding of the shared goals as well as prioritize them for that particular region. The task force also commissioned a survey to inquire about families' and children's needs, service accessibility, and health & emotional status. This survey showed a gap analysis in several of the areas noted.

Mrs. Johnson then highlighted the task force's successes via a timeline, from its inception in the fall of 2002 to the present. She discussed their next steps, which included state strategy development and implementation of a state plan (by fall of 2005) to address and meet families and children's needs. She also asked the Council for its support in the task force's efforts.

Member Remarks

Steve Ahrens asked for a point of personal privilege; the Chair recognized Mr. Ahrens. Mr. Ahrens asked that the record reflect the extraordinary efforts done by Roger Madsen and his staff, as well as members of a special committee, to bring an acceptable Unemployment Insurance trust fund financing bill to the Legislature and to have it passed. Mr. Madsen was able to find compromises and solutions to the many issues involved in this legislation and to do so without rancor and in-fighting among all those involved in the process.

“Clawback” Provisions in Workforce Development Training Fund (WDTF)

Leandra Burns, Idaho Commerce and Labor, presented Transmittal #4 and the staff recommendation concerning an option for a “clawback” provision in WDTF contracts with employers. This is a follow-up action to the Council's earlier question about whether or not the Department should require a repayment of WDTF funds from a WDTF employer when a funded project was unsuccessful. The particular situation that caused the Council to raise this issue was the business failure of some call centers that had received WDTF assistance. These call centers relied upon telemarketing contracts with other businesses. When the “do not call” legislation took effect, this type of telemarketing became unviable.

Leandra advised the Council of the staff's conclusions that 1) adequate controls and contract language currently exist to deter WDTF support of unviable projects; 2) when the call center situation arose, immediate action was undertaken to limit further expenditures; and 3) the call center situation could not have been anticipated at the time the WDTF contracts were signed and that the individual call centers made strong efforts to obtain new business but eventually failed through no fault of their own. The staff recommended that no additional provisions be added to all WDTF contracts as current policies and procedures provide needed flexibility to add such provisions if needed in specific situations.

After questions and discussion, the motion was made by Jerry Beck and seconded by Karl Kurtz to accept the staff's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously, with Roger Madsen abstaining.

High School Reform

Parra Byron, Education Policy Advisor to Governor Kempthorne, briefed the Council on the activities of a special task force created to address a variety of educational issues that fall into the rubric of "high school reform". The task force's intent is to identify issues and make recommendations about how the public schools can best meet the demands of a new/changing educational environment, including such things as global competitiveness, "No Child Left Behind" initiatives, graduation proficiency testing, advances in technology and communications, and strain on educational resources.

The task force, which is representative of the education system's stakeholders, has identified three priority themes for its work:

- Curriculum and Instruction, including concepts of gateway classes, career/occupational clusters, and partnerships among schools, business, and community.
- Structural Issues, such as how should a school day be organized, length of school year, and new way of looking at grade levels.
- Professional Development, i.e., new teaching skills, attracting teachers to rural areas.

Much of the high school reform movement was due in part to the efforts of the National Governor's Association and the policies it has promoted in the area. Governor Kempthorne is expecting an action plan for implementing high school reform in the state.

Ms. Byron said the task force's work will be publicized and provided to the school systems and Legislature.

Jerry Beck commented that high schools need to stress the value of Advanced Placement and high school/postsecondary dual enrollment where available. He also said that colleges and universities should consider the type of class taken, AP or advanced, not just a student's GPA when making scholarship and admission decisions.

Conference and Meeting Debriefing

Dwight Johnson asked for feedback on what the Council members thought of their January 27th joint meeting with the other councils staffed by the Department of Commerce and Labor. What specific things could staff do to make any council meeting and business more effective and worthwhile to the membership?

Various Council members stated the joint meeting had been productive, interesting, and worth the time and that future ones should be planned.

Other comments and suggestions:

- Inter-council relations: Share membership lists. Publicize meeting notices/agenda. Make meeting minutes available. Share the goals and annual plans of each council. These things could be done via an internet site or e-mail.
- Joint meetings: Repeat large joint meeting each year. Have it early in the Legislative session. Include time for regional meetings. Investigate moving meeting around state but if not feasible, have time for Legislative visits and/or structure interchange between Council members and Legislature. Should meet closer to Capitol or provide a bus to get people there.
- Meeting content and format: WIA State Council should keep developing a skilled workforce as its central theme when setting meeting agendas. The panel discussions during the joint discussion were well-received and more should be done. It is always good to hear from workers, students, employers and other customers of the state workforce development system.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Council, Chair McGee adjourned the meeting. The next Council meeting will be scheduled in early May, possibly coinciding with the Rural Partnership conference held in Idaho Falls. Major agenda items are likely to be Congressional reauthorization of WIA and review of state and local plans and service delivery. In order to help with Council member's schedule planning, an additional meeting was tentatively scheduled for the first week of October.

Attendance:

Workforce Development Council
January 28, 2005

Council Members:

Steve Ahrens
Lois Bauer
Joe Burgoyne
Jerry Beck
Millie Flandro
Jennifer Giro
Cindy Hedge
Pat White for Marilyn Howard
Karl Kurtz
Roger Madsen
Karen McGee
Patrick Minegar
Kirby Ortiz
Fred Ostermeyer
Con Paulos (absent)
Jim Soyk
Gary Stivers
Dene Thomas
Dave Whaley

WIB Chairs by Area:

I Andrea Kramer
II Don Smith, IWB Member
III Deni Hoehne, IWB Member
IV Roy Prescott
V Ivan Leonhardt
VI Blair Dance

Guests:

Toni Acarregui-Gable
Jim Adams
Melinda Adams

Jenn Andrews
Bob Barber
Rico Barrera
Cheryl Brush
Leandra Burns
Terry Butikofer
Pat Campbell
Susan Choate
Dale Dixon
Jay Engstrom
Barry Frank
Sam Greer
Larry Hertling
Dwight Johnson
Wanda Keefer
Kathleen Lewis
Mark Mattke
John McAllister
Candy McElfresh
Chuck Mollerup
Bob Perky
Dania Rivers
Megan Ronk
Tim Rubio
Dennis Scollon
Christie Stoll
Alice Taylor
Roy Valdez
Kay Vaughan
Nancy Vazquez
Burton Waite
Robin Warner
Rich Watson
Judy Welker
Genie Sue Weppner

Presenters:

Parra Byron
Blossom Johnston