



Spokane Area WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MINUTES

SPOKANE AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RETREAT

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Davenport Hotel

Anne Lockwood – Note Taker

Mark Mattke - Editor

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frankie Arteaga	Jeff Benesch	Peter Casimir	Polly Crowley	Steve Dahlstrom
Ron Dalla	Donna Dalzell	Craig Dias	Robert Duron	Rich Hadley
Machelle Johnson	Alethea McCann	Julie Meyer	Nancy Nelson	Brian Read
Michael Schelstrate	John Serben	Hugh Severs	Dixie Simmons	Beth Thew
Joe Tortorelli	Lisa White	Diana Wilhite		

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ben Cabildo Steve Jurich

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Warner – PM Communications	Kodi Meador – Spokane Public Schools	Kim Orlob – City of Spokane	Lindsey Woolsey – Corporation for a Skilled Workforce
------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------	---

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Mattke- Workforce Strategy & Planning Director	Machelle Hughes - Accountant	Anne Lockwood - Secretary	Gordon Gutterud – Accountant	Dawn Karber- Youth Program & Development Manager	Lori Meakin- Workforce Development Program Specialist
---	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------------	--	---

Overall, the Annual Retreat was successful in helping to prioritize and provide guidance for the development of this year's work plan and the RFP for system services. Items discussed included:

- The high school dropout issue
 - Do we focus or lead around the youth dropout issue? If we address the dropout rate in our area, how do we show a tangible on reaching meaningful outcomes? If we cannot measure the impact, do we agree to let it go? Agreed that we continue to act on this and use SAWDC capacity but that it is difficult to get our arms around the issue if we do not have deliverables.

- Core competencies and the primary role of the SAWDC
 - There are situations where we are a primary actor, and at times we are just a supporting element. We have to identify where others have resources and are primary.
- Guiding Principles
 - A guiding principle is the most utility for our investment. We may need to justify increased spending on higher levels of training if our economy has unmet need. For example, if the need is for a specific baccalaureate degree, we would train for the baccalaureate.
 - At the core is the role of the SAWDC in the convening role with oversight of the local workforce development system. The SAWDC is at the table for many of the issues but not always necessarily in the lead role. The system is robust with the colleges participating, GSI is engaged, and there is huge involvement from other entities, but the participation is not always coordinated. The system needs to adapt to meet the needs of the changing local economy and this requires better collaboration.
 - The SAWDC is both the broker and the funder at times, based upon the issue at hand. If there is another entity that has more investment or existing resources on a particular issue, the SAWDC acts as partner and brings what it can to the table.
 - A sound process for determining the role and level of involvement for the SAWDC would be to identify the topic, who is involved, who brings what resources, and what funds are needed in the future to sustain the work in the future. This will help point to our level of support.
- Funding Constraints-
 - The rules governing the use of WIA program funds are not always clearly understood. It will be of benefit for the Council to understand WIA constraints without adding massive amounts of detail. There are certain things which must be done under the WIA, but WDCs also have flexibility to work toward strategic goals.
 - The WDC's core areas of funding are Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth. The SAWDC is always interested in communicating with other WIBs around the country to find out what other best practices exist and where we can improve our services.