



Spokane Area WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MINUTES

SPOKANE AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 7:40 a.m. – 9:39 am

Spokane Skills Center
Anne Lockwood – Note Taker
Mark Mattke - Editor

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frankie Arteaga	Jeff Benesch	Ben Cabildo	Polly Crowley	Steve Dahlstrom
Ron Dalla	Donna Dalzell	Craig Dias	Robert Duron	Rich Hadley
Kevin Managhan	Alethea McCann	Julie Meyer	Brian Read	John Serben
Hugh Severs	Dixie Simmons	Beth Thew	Joe Tortorelli	Lisa White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Peter Casimir	Tom Fritz	Steve Jurich	Paul Milliken	Nancy Nelson
Mike Senske	Diana Wilhite			

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Dunlap- Contract Based Education, West Valley School District	Lisa Mattson- Spokane Schools	Annie Blackledge- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	Lisa Mattson- Spokane Public Schools	Cleve Penberthy- Contract Based Education, West Valley School District
Ben Stuckart- Communities in Schools				

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Mattke- Workforce Strategy & Planning Director	Peg Waldron- Assistant Director Workforce Operations	Gordon Gutterud – Accountant	Dawn Karber-Youth Program & Development Manager	Anne Lockwood- Secretary
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ITEM #1 – REVIEW OF JANUARY 14, 2009, MEETING MINUTES:

***Motion and second to approve the January 14, 2009, Meeting Minutes.
Approved unanimously.***

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ITEM #2 - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE-NOMINATION OF A NEW MEMBER:

Motion and second to approve Mike Schelstrate from Triumph Composite Systems for nomination to the Council. Approved unanimously.

ITEM #3 – POLICY COMMITTEE:

Motion and second to approve SAWDC support for the Spokane Skills Center request for \$1.8M to develop and build a Health Science Academy at the current location.

SERVICES AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

The SAWDC was awarded a PY08 WorkSource Framework Grant at the maximum available level of \$250,000. These funds focus on restructuring the Center to improve workflow and usability for all customers at the WorkSource. All SAWDC members are invited to join the Services and Oversight Committee at 9:00 am on March 17, 2009, for a WorkSource Center tour.

EMPLOYMENT UPDATE:

Spokane is experiencing an influx of job seekers which is adding to the unemployment rate. The SAWDC is working to determine what skill sets are currently needed in the labor market and project where jobs in the recovery will be in demand in order to make best use of the Recovery Act funds in our area.

ITEM #4 – PRESENTATION: YOUTH GRADUATION RATES AND THE DROPOUT CHALLENGE:

BUILDING BRIDGES-

Building Bridges has two main components, a grant program and a State level workgroup. This workgroup helps in selecting a broad base of programs capable of testing models with key at-risk populations. They forge community partnerships in support of school-based interventions, reach populations with a significantly known dropout risk, and align programs models with dropout intervention literature/

Building Bridges has 3 systematic initiatives: Establish a statewide goal of reducing dropouts, develop a coordinated system of cross-agency supports at the state and local level to achieve that goal, and build the resources and systems needed by school districts to plan and develop comprehensive, culturally relevant dropout prevention and intervention programs and activities.

An early warning system has been created to identify a student as early as 4th grade as at risk, which helps Building Bridges to start working with the youth as soon as possible.

Washington State House Bill (HB) 1418 will create a mandatory mechanism so schools in Washington State will be able to better collaborate and intervene to prevent drop outs.

OUR KIDS-

Four broad categories for dropouts:

1. Life Events (stuff happens out side of school)
2. Fade Outs (youth that are frustrated, bored, or stop seeing the reason for school)
3. Poor academic preparation
4. Push Outs

Several risk factors for youth are:

1. Repeating one or more grades (does not matter when you repeat the grade)
2. High mobility (i.e., parents who are employed in the military)
3. Homeless students
4. Students in foster care
5. Low expectation from adults
6. Adults who write off the students
7. Assuming too much adult responsibilities (i.e., parenting their own parents), etc.

Traditional behavior pushes youth out of schools. President Obama has said “dropping out is not an option; you are giving up on yourself and your country”. However, in response, youth say “are you kidding me, my country has already given up on me”. There is the perception that the system has given up on these youth. NB - Spokane County is losing a high school worth of kids every year.

Questions to be addressed include: Is the type of connectivity needed to engage youth being used? What is the right thing to do? How does Washington State’s agenda meld with the youth’s agenda?

Building Bridges is investing in youth by involving Interns, social workers, AmeriCorps volunteers, social workers, probation officers, and a host of adults in the building that are not staff. Social workers are sent out to find youth that have dropped off the radar and assist youth working with domestic issues and a whole host of things that affect them but are not academic.

ITEM #5 – SAWDC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2009-2011:

The SAWDC Strategic Plan 2009-2011 is ready to release for public comment. The Plan will be out for public comment for 45 days and then will be submitted to the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board as a final version. Due to the quick turnaround time required, members will be asked for final input via email at the end of April.

On a motion and a second to release the SAWDC Strategic Plan 2009-2011 draft for public comment. Approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. There will be a Dropout Summit on April 17, 2009
2. The Demand/Decline List will need to be updated for the new program year and to be used in making training investment decisions for ARRA funds.
3. Question for members: If there were one thing you would want the SAWDC to do for summer youth employment, what would that be?

NEXT WDC MEETING: The next SAWDC Meeting will be held at the Spokane Skills Center, 4141 N Regal, on May 13, 2009, from 7:30 am – 9:30 am.