

# SOUTHEAST COLORADO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING

Ft. Lyon  
April 22, 2014  
10:30am

<b>Members present:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
Jeannie Larsen	SEMH WIB Chair
Johnnie DeLeon	IF
Jerry Nickel	Education
Joe Pentlicki	Private
Sheila Hudson	Huerfano DSS
Chris Tuma	Corrections
Jayne McGraw	Healthcare
Dan Tate	SECED
Ray Garcia	LEO
Ryan Stevens	Economic Development
David Cockrell	OJC
Betty Velasquez	Southeast /South Central Director
Ray Martinez	La Junta Workforce Center
Charles Griego	Trinidad Workforce Center
Shannon Garcia	Southeast Workforce Center
Clarke Becker	Rural Consortium Director
Kim MacDonnell	Bent County Eco Development (guest)
Bill Long	Bent County Commissioner (guest)

**Members Not Present:** Bill Koehler, Nancy Wilkinson, Carmen Simone, Jerry Barber, Ron Davis, Jim Rizzuto, John Marrin

**Welcome/Introductions:** Introductions were given around the room.

**Agenda Changes:** Jeannie asked Clarke to give the board an update on the Rural Consortium, as well as an update on the consolidation of the Rocky Ford and La Junta offices.

**Consent Vote:** Jeannie approved the minutes as there were no changes requested.

Clarke informed the board that he recently went to Washington DC to NAWB which is a conference for workforce boards throughout the nation. Christy Gonzales, Admin Team Member, attended as well as Roni Wisdom the incoming Rural Consortium WIB Chair and Debbie Bell the LEO for the Rural Consortium WIB. Clarke stated that it was a great experience and that there are a lot of great and exciting things that they as attendees would like to roll out because of the ideas that received at that conference. Clarke stated that some of those ideas will be showcased at the upcoming May Rural Consortium WIB Meeting that will take place in Alamosa. Clarke stated that they are going to try to get the board to be as strategic as possible.

Clarke then discussed the budgets of the Rural Consortium and stated that WIA will have a slight increase and the Wagner Peyser funds will have a slight decrease. Clarke noted that is one of the reasons Southeast looked at the consolidation of the two offices; Rocky Ford and La Junta. Clarke then stated that he and Betty met with the Otero County Commissioners to discuss the plan and they requested a meeting with the City of Rocky Ford. Clarke stated that after that meeting it was decided that the operations in Rocky Ford would be expanded rather than moving to La Junta. He also stated that the Department of Human Services will be moving some of their staff into Rocky Ford and there will be a cost savings of about \$1700 per month. It will be good to have all staff under one roof Clarke noted. Clarke stated that the Consortium is looking at things just like this in other regions. Joe stated that he does not understand why staying in Rocky Ford was the option that was chosen because it is further away from the customer base. Clarke noted that staff is still close to that customer base and the cost savings is what is driving the decision as well as having all staff under one roof. Clarke noted that the Library in La Junta as well as Otero Junior College has discussed they may have some space for staff to utilize in La Junta so there would still be a presence there. Betty noted that the City of Rocky Ford has one year to get the building up to code and that the agreement with the City of Rocky Ford is only for one year. Jeannie stated that the consolidation has been talked about off and on for years and she thinks that it makes total sense. Jeannie noted that she was very excited after the last meeting because the move to La Junta was going to happen, she said that she was very disappointed that this is not going to happen. She noted that she thinks that this is just due to political decisions and trying to help the City of Rocky Ford's revenue which isn't the mission of the Workforce Center. Johnnie also expressed his disappointment with what has recently occurred, he also expressed that the Lamar Office may see an increase in traffic due to the Las Animas individuals not being served by La Junta if that office is closed. Clarke again discussed the reasons for making the decisions about consolidating into Rocky Ford. Betty noted that Las Animas was thought about during the consolidation discussion. Betty talked about Long distance to Rocky Ford for those that live in Las Animas, Johnnie asked about the Rocky Ford Office obtaining an 800 number. There were questions as to where the \$1700 cost savings would be coming from. Betty discussed that the cost savings is coming from the consolidation as well as the janitorial and electric in Rocky Ford will be rolled into the lease and there was some cost savings there. Betty discussed that Ellen would like for the things that need to be repaired in the building be written into the new lease with the City of Rocky Ford and those repairs be completed with-in six months. Johnnie discussed that he thinks the Workforce Center office needs to be closer to where the customer and employer base is located. Jeannie stated that it looks like the consolidation will occur and space will be utilized in La Junta with OJC and or the Library. Clarke noted that Commissioner Karney goes way back in the Workforce System and he is very much in the spirit of the One Stop System which is easier to do in some of the larger more metro regions rather than in the Rural Regions. Clarke noted that the commissioners were also looking out for the city. Jeannie then discussed if the City of Rocky Ford does everything to the building and the board still wants the Workforce Center to move to La Junta will the move be able to happen. Dan stated that he was under the impression that the board can decide. Clarke stated that the State is

actually the One Stop Operator and has the ability to make decisions. Clarke also noted that the commissioners should have probably been at this table to discuss the issues with the board. Betty accepted responsibility for not engaging all county commissioners in the discussion; she will make sure that she has them at the table in future conversations. Ray Garcia apologized that he was not at the last meeting he was not informed of the meeting and he also had a Commissioner Meeting that same day, but he will be engaged in the future on this discussion. Joe stated that he thinks that the consolidation needs to occur. Dan stated that if there is nonperformance in in next six months on the City of Rocky Ford's part then can the Workforce Center move to La Junta. Clarke stated that if we enter a one year lease and the City of Rocky Ford does not perform in six months then we will let them know that we would be moving once that year lease is up. Clarke stated that he is worried that they may slack off if a longer lease was entered into with the City of Rocky Ford. Dan asked if the decision was political or fiscal. Clarke stated that it is more fiscal. Chris asked if the Workforce Center is misleading Rocky Ford by having them do all of these things and then moving out. Clarke stated that if Rocky Ford is not the place that the board feels that the Workforce Center should be the board needs to talk to the commissioners about that issue. Betty stated that she did show data to Rocky Ford supporting that the customer and employer base is in La Junta. She also noted that the City of Rocky Ford has said that they can use the building for a police and fire station if the Workforce Center was to move out. Johnnie stated that he is still confused; he thinks that there should be one consolidation made instead of multiple moves. He noted that it doesn't make sense to move to Rocky Ford from La Junta and then from Rocky Ford to La Junta, it is not a cost savings to keep moving. Betty noted that the leases in La Junta and Rocky Ford were up and that is why it was the perfect time to consolidate. Betty noted that she was not comfortable with a long term lease with the City of Rocky Ford. Jeannie asked that if the one year lease has been signed as of yet, Clarke stated no. Jeannie asked if the board would like to meet with the commissioners and then go from there. Joe asked if it is too late to reverse this decision. Jeannie stated that she would feel better if she could hear from the commissioners. Clarke loved the idea of the board meeting with the commissioners and he noted that he takes ownership of not having the right people at the table with the commissioner meeting initially. Betty and Jeannie will work on getting a meeting with the commissioners set up. Ray G asked what the intent of meeting would be; Jeannie stated that it is to get a better understanding of why the Otero County Commissioners would rather have the Workforce Center in Rocky Ford rather than in La Junta. Ryan stated that the La Junta option could still be a possibility. The board requested that an in person meeting with the commissioners be set up.

**Youth Conference Testimonials:** Joe stated that the Youth Conference was a great opportunity and a very good event for youth; representatives from Oliver met some really engaged kids and some not so engaged kids. He noted that Oliver gave a summer job opportunity to a youth that attended the Conference. Joe discussed what went well as well as what things could be improved upon. Ryan stated that he was able to go around and observe all the sessions and he thought it was a great event. Ryan stated that he thinks that business participation will be up next year. Johnnie also stated that he thought it was a great event and gave kudos to all who assisted. Chris stated it was a great opportunity for youth; he noted that he didn't have a lot of kids in his session. He would have liked

more sessions but shorter sessions in order for youth to find out information on more industries. Jeannie said that it was a very positive experience everything was presented very well. She noted that the keynote was a great addition. Jeannie stated that there were three presenters for the Healthcare Industry and in her opinion that was too many, she also noted that some youth were very engaged and others not so much. Jeannie stated that next time they may try to make their session more interactive and identify and activity to facilitate. Betty stated that this was a grant and that she would like to try and get funding from some businesses for next year. Johnnie stated that with the cost savings over the year maybe funds could be used from that cost savings.

**Ft. Lyon Information and Testimonials:** Bill Long welcomed everyone to the facility and gave a brief overview of the Ft. Lyon Facility. Bill did note that there are currently about 130 individuals housed at Ft. Lyon. Bill noted that they have developed a great relationship with OJC since the inception of the program. David stated that the individuals that are attending the classes OJC has been providing are doing very well with their grades. Lisa Trigilio also spoke about some of the educational opportunities that are happening at Ft. Lyon as well as some of the things they are doing on the grounds as far as having animals and planting a garden. It was stated that the clients are a part of the day to day operations; residents have worked 4400 hours since December. Lisa noted that there are a lot of learning opportunities at the facility for individuals that live there. Bill stated they will soon be providing transportation to Las Animas and La Junta for clients. It was discussed that the Workforce Center is doing some job readiness workshops and mock interviews and Lisa stated that she would like to find out what else the Workforce Center can provide to those living there. Next the board heard personal testimonials from a couple of residents of the facility.

**Call for Agenda Items:** None stated.

## **Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:** July 22, 2014 GoTo Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

*Shannon Garcia*