

SOUTHEAST COLORADO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING

La Junta Workforce Center
August 26, 2014
12:00pm-2:00pm

Members present:	Representing:
Jeannie Larsen	SEMH WIB Chair-Private
Gerald Barber	Crowley County Rep-Private
Ray Garcia	LEO
Cassie Wilkens	IF-Private (Guest)
Jim Rizzuto	OJC
Jayne McGraw	Spanish Peaks-Private
John Marrin	LCC President
Dan Tate	SECED
Ryan Stevens	Economic Development
Sheila Hudson	Huerfano County DHS
Clarke Becker	Director of the Rural Workforce Consortium
Francie McDonald	Civil Rights
Betty Velasquez	Southeast /South Central Director
Ray Martinez	La Junta Workforce Center
Charles Griego	Trinidad Workforce Center
Lauren Jones	La Junta Workforce Center
Shannon Garcia	La Junta Workforce Center

Members Not Present: Bill Koehler, Nancy Wilkinson, Joe Pentlicki, Carmen Simone, Chris Tuma, Ron Davis

Welcome/Introductions: Jeannie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda Changes: Jeannie asked that an open house update be given after the Civil Rights presentation.

Consent Vote: Jeannie asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the July meeting minutes, no changes were requested and the minutes were approved.

Testimonials: Shama Smith from Arkansas Valley Hospice came in to talk to the board about a youth that was completing a work experience at Arkansas Valley Hospice. Shama provided positive feedback regarding the individual that was placed at Hospice. She noted that the individual was coachable and that she has helped with special projects and will be working there throughout the school year. Shama did note that there were things that they had to address with this individual but that was attributed to her age and not having had work experience prior to working at Hospice. Shama said that she believes that this program has assisted in teaching valuable skills because it is hard to get your foot in the door without work experience especially when you are a youth. Shama

said that Hospice would participate in another work experience if the opportunity presented itself.

Criston Menz from Oliver Manufacturing also came to provide a testimonial for the board. Criston talked about working in a larger city as compared to a smaller city and some of the differences when it comes to taking advantage of programs like the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the Workforce Investment Act. Criston stated that Oliver has been able to take advantage of close to \$14,700 through WIA on the job training contracts. She also mentioned that they have been able to utilize \$37,000 through a grant from Pikes Peak Workforce Center to provide Lean Manufacturing Training. She also mentioned that there are programs through Pueblo Community College that they have been able to take advantage of, she noted that each of these programs have been very helpful for Oliver. Criston talked about the need to share the information with others about the programs that are available through the Workforce Center, she noted that she shares that information about Workforce programs and staff wherever she goes. Criston also discussed the need to grow our own talent in order to keep people in the area because it is sometimes hard to attract talent to the area. Dan asked Criston about the success rate of the individuals assisted through on the job training, Criston stated that from the six that went through the on the job training five are still employed. Criston discussed an individual that was employed at a local fast food restaurant earning minimum wage that is now working at Oliver making \$11 per hour plus benefits. Criston then talked about Oliver's benefits and bonuses that are offered to their employers, she discussed that they are also working to bring wellness into the workplace. Criston did discuss that Oliver would like to work with youth in order to show them everything that goes into Manufacturing. She also noted that Oliver's hiring process is all online and that everyone must go through the Workforce Center. Criston also talked about the need for knowledge and innovation in all facets of the workforce.

Civil Rights Training: Francie McDonald from the Department of Regulatory Agencies Division of Civil Rights was then introduced. She informed the board that she was going to teach the board about employment laws and protected classes, Francie provided the board with handouts and a copy of her PowerPoint presentation. Francie also informed the board that Civil Rights have a new Pueblo Office and Paul is the representative out of the Pueblo Office.

Open House: Lauren handed out the press release for the open house to the board. Lauren stated that the Open House will take place on September 10, 2014 from 12:00pm-4:00pm with an official ribbon cutting at 1:00pm; hot dogs and root beer floats will be served. She noted that there will be stations set up for visitors that cover the WIA program, Wagner Peyser, and the Resource Center. Lauren noted that the Mayor will provide a welcome, Clarke will speak, and Jeannie will read the Proclamation. Lauren stated that the radio station has been contacted to see if they will do a live remote but there has not been confirmation as of yet.

Agenda Items: Jeannie reminded the board that if there are agenda items for the next meeting to send them in to Betty and Shannon. She also reminded everyone that the next meeting is a GoTo Meeting and it will be the week of Thanksgiving. Jeannie also noted that the December meeting will be in Walsenburg. Jeannie asked Shannon to check with Jim Rizzuto in order to see if a bus or van could be utilized from OJC to travel to the meeting.

Francie informed the board that she will be in Lamar in late September to provide training; she stated that Kirk Crespín at the bank in Lamar is the contact if anyone knows of individuals that may want to attend.

Betty thanked the board for their support on the consolidation and move to the new La Junta location. She noted that there has been quite a bit of walk in traffic and the office has been very busy.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 from 1:00pm-2:00pm via GoTo Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Garcia