

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

JUNE 9, 2009

8:30 A.M.

BORG WARNER ROOM – TC PUBLIC LIBRARY

PRESENT: B. Bantle, B. Blanchard, R. Bohman, D. Bradac, D. Chadwick, M. Coldren, C. Haynes, D. Herath, L. Holmes, L. Leonard, P. McKee, J. McPheeters, B. Pass, L. Patz, A. Pedersen, M. Stamm, M. Turnbull, J. Wesche, N. Zahler

EXCUSED: B. Myers, M. Opperman

ABSENT: P. Carey, L. Dillon, P. Gardner, J. Little, D. Marsh, E. O'Donnell, M. Talarski

GUESTS: M. Armstrong, TCAD; T. Grippen, M. Hughes, NYSDOL; P. DeSarno, City of Ithaca

STAFF: J. Mattick, Jennifer Luu

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pedersen called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Pedersen welcomed Tim Grippen to the Board. Mr. Grippen is the Governor's regional representative and will be replacing John Rossi who previously represented the Department of Labor. Mr. Grippen appointment is forthcoming from the County Legislature

Ms. Holmes introduced Laura Dorlock who is interning with the Office for the Aging this summer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Board Officers were announced for 2009-2010 as follows:

Chairman – Alan Pedersen
Vice-Chair – Mark Coldren
Secretary – Lisa Patz
Treasurer – Jean McPheeters

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Mr. Bantle, seconded by Mr. Bohman and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of March 24, 2009.

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

AMENDED WIA DISLOCATED WORKER ELIGIBILITY POLICY

It was Moved by Mr. Bohman, seconded by Mr. Bantle and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to confirm Executive Committee action on the Amended WIA Dislocated Worker Eligibility Policy below:

Dislocated Worker Criteria

Most common category of DW

DW Cat 1: (must meet all 3 criteria)

1. Terminated or laid off, or has received notice or termination or layoff
2. Eligible for, or exhausted UI
3. **Unlikely to return to previous industry or occupation**

3 is the one that causes the most confusion: It does not matter if a customer has an occupation that appears on the demand occupation list, the following nullifies that.

Unlikely to return to previous industry or occupation:

LABOR MARKET:

- TA states 'no job openings within 1 hour drive time'- for our purposes 50 mile radius works;
- Local supply of persons with the specific skills of the applicant exceeds the current demand for those skills;
- Only Stop-Gap available: jobs available to applicant would be temporary or substantially below the applicant's accustomed skill, hour, or wage level;
- No job offers received: applicant has been looking for work for a number of weeks and has not received a job offer. "Number of weeks" can range from 4-12 depending upon the occupation, economy, and/or applicant's verified job search efforts;
- Laid off from a no growth occupation;
- Laid off from a declining industry;
- Laid off from an occupation with fewer than 50 annual job openings on a statewide basis;
- If REOS indicates that the occupation is not a regional demand occupation;

OTHER CRITERIA:

- Lacks required education for a specific industry or occupation (this includes lack of hs/ged if required, lack of level of education for occupation ex: tests too low for job requirements)
- Lack of job skills/ certificates or obsolete skills necessary to obtain employment in previous field. (ex: welder for 20 years, no certificate- job listings require certificate; secretary for 15 years but is not familiar with MS word, outlook, etc)
- Transportation issues
- Language barriers
- Disability: medical, physical, emotional, alcohol/drug, learning
- Poor work history/ job retention (can't keep a job)
- Offender status: (ex: have restrictions on work locations, distance can travel, etc—how their status relates needs to documented in OSOS)
- Daycare/ family issues
- Loss of certification/ license for occupation
- Any type of restrictions imposed by court, family, health care providers
- Higher education: example: a PhD gets laid off from Cornell, was Archeologist. Not a lot of jobs in this field in this area! Same with Biochemical Engineer etc
- Government jobs (local, state, federal): (ex: those jobs tied to civil service, or non-profit government agencies- unlikely to obtain another local gov't job in area simply because they aren't available)
- Military (recently separated vets) and spouses of military personnel

DW Cat 2: (must meet one of the below criteria)

- The job seeker must have been terminated, laid off, or received a notice of termination or layoff from employment as a result of:
 1. Any permanent closure of a plant, facility, or enterprise; *or*
 2. A substantial layoff at a plant, facility, or enterprise.

Substantial layoff is the reduction in force, which is not the result of a Plant closing and which results in an employment loss at a single site of employment during any 30-day period for:

(a)(i) at least 10% of the fulltime employees

Fulltime employees are those that regularly work 20 or more hours per week.

DW Cat 3:

- as self-employed (including employment as a farmer) but **is unemployed** as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters

DW Cat 4:

- is a displaced homemaker.

DISPLACED HOMEMAKER means an individual who has been providing unpaid services to family members in the home and who:

(A) has been dependent on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by the income; **and**

(B) is unemployed or underemployed

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL ACTIONS

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT YEAR ROUND YOUTH PROGRAM

Mr. Pedersen on behalf of Ms. Myers (Youth Council Chair) stated the Youth Employment Council has approved the release of Request for Proposal for the WIA Year Round Youth Program. The current contract with the Office of Employment and Training to operate the Workforce Investment Act WIA Youth program ends on September 30, 2009. As it is required that the WIA Youth program be competitively procured it is the recommendation of the Youth Employment Council that a Request for Proposals be issued by the WIB for operation of the WIA Youth program from October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2011 with an option for a one year renewal at the discretion of the Workforce Investment Board. It was Moved by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Ms. Turnbull and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to confirm the Youth Employment Council's recommendation to release the Request for Proposals.

WORKFORCE STRATEGY UPDATE

Ms. Armstrong provided an update on the workforce strategy. The process is moving forward, six issues and possible solutions have been identified and it is hoped that a concise, strategic document will be available for release this summer. Implementation will take place in several groups and will go in various directions.

TRADE ACT UPDATE – BORG WARNER

Ms. Mattick reported that Borg Warners TAA petition was approved and she distributed a handout highlighting the additional benefits that will be available to the laid off employees. Additional benefits include extended unemployment insurance benefits, job and moving expense allowances, health coverage tax credit, and up to \$15,000 in training benefits over a two year period. She stated 615 people have been determined to be trade act eligible between the Ithaca and Cortland facilities and the staff in Tompkins and Cortland Counties are working closely together. There are very tight deadlines that must be adhered to for training to be funded and a provider fair is being held at Tompkins Cortland Community College to give employees an opportunity to explore what options may be available to them. Ms. Mattick stated this situation is definitely stretching the limits of the one-stop center staff, but they are doing there very best to serve everyone.

DEVELOPMENT IN TOMPKINS COUNTY – UPDATES, TIMELINES, JOBS

Philly DeSarno, Deputy Director for Economic Development with the City of Ithaca provided an overview of current development within the City. Ithaca is doing much better than a lot of New York State and there is a lot of construction occurring downtown this year.

Mr. Stamm stated that Tompkins County Area Development works with companies that make and sell things outside of Tompkins County. TCAD strategically focuses on business and has a very active business retention program. There are a few companies that are considering expansions, but the County is starting to feel the impact of the recession. He did note that the air service in Ithaca is very creative and has been successful in expanding and this is very positive for the area. TCAD is taking the lead on the sewer and water infrastructure study and is also working closely with the Workforce Investment Board on the Workforce Strategy.

WIB DIRECTOR'S REPORT/CENTER MANAGERS REPORT

Ms. Mattick stated that a health career expo is being planned for October 2009 at Ithaca College with 500-600 students attending. It is being patterned after an annual event held by United Health Services in Binghamton.

The summer youth employment program is gaining momentum. There are three contractors this summer; Tompkins Community Action, Tompkins County office of Employment and Training, and the City of Ithaca Youth Employment Service. The Program will serve 300-330 youth this summer who will work approximately 25 hours per week for 6 weeks. The WIB is contracting with County Youth Services to provide technical assistance and eligibility training and they are doing a phenomenal job. There is a common application and a seamless referral process to provide youth and their families a “no wrong” door approach.

Ms. Bradac's report was distributed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m. The next WIB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Borg Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library.