

NOVEMBER 15, 2005

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
8:30 A.M.**

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

- PRESENT:** B. Blanchard, R. Bohman, D. Herath, C. Haynes, P. McKee, M. Opperman, R. Pass, A. Pedersen, S. Pronti, J. Rossi, M. Stamm, I. Stein, J. Wesche
- EXCUSED:** L. Dillon, B. Fortier, C. Haynes, J. Little, J. Maglione, T. Mallinson, J. McPheeters, L. Patz, M. Turnbull
- ABSENT:** P. Carey, T. Colbert, W. Cooke, D. Cooper, D. Czerwonka, J. Fogler, P. Gardner, L. Leonard, K. Mann, D. Marsh, S. White, N. Zahler
- GUESTS:** J. Kozlowski, J. Flynn, New York State Department of Labor; C. Martin, Tompkins Community Action; D. Chappell, T-S-T BOCES; S. Varvyanis, Cornell University
- STAFF:** J. Mattick, Jennifer Luu

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Opperman called the meeting to order at 8:38.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Herath reported the Women's Opportunity Center is taking over the Syracuse Displaced Homemakers Center on November 1, 2005. They also have a center at SUNY Cortland.

INTERIM PLANS

The Executive Committee met to discuss interim plans and Ms. Giordano's recommendations for filling her vacant position. There was consensus to appoint Ms. Mattick as the Interim Director of Workforce Development. A search has begun to replace Ms. Mattick on an interim basis and the County's Personnel Office is assisting with that process. The Committee met with County Administrator, Steve Whicher to discuss the future of the WIB. The County is very supportive of Workforce Development and there was agreement that a recommendation needs to be brought to the County on the WIB's plan to move forward prior to the 2007 budget season commencing.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Mattick thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with them and noted she is very excited to provide assistance to the Board as they begin planning for the future.

Ms. Mattick reported on the Federal level the House budget reconciliation act crashed because there wasn't consensus to move it forward. The House and Senate are conferencing on an appropriation bill and there is a possibility that in the 2006 fiscal year WIA might be cut by \$61 million. Each states allocation is based on its unemployment rate. New York State's unemployment rate is low and she expects this will affect the State's allocation.

Ms. Mattick reported on center activities and stated the downstairs location will be leased through 2007 and used to house the youth program. Staff from Employment & Training, Challenge Industries, and County Youth Services is using the space at this time. The rent for the space will be paid for through the youth program.

LONG-TERM PLANNING

Ms. Opperman stated that with changes in funding for workforce development as well as Ms. Giordano leaving the organization, it is necessary to take a fresh look at what is needed as far as workforce development in Tompkins County.

Mr. Pedersen stated the group needs to take a look at where the WIB is at currently and where it wishes to be in the future. Initially there was a lot of energy to the System and focus was on employers and their needs. Over time, with state mandates and funding challenges, more emphasis has been going toward funding streams and regulations. It is time for the Board to carefully consider how it wants to move forward.

- Does the WIB continue status quo?
- Does the WIB structure change, i.e., become a not-for-profit?
- Does Tompkins County align with another WIB for leverage and reduction in beauracracy?
- Are there other solutions to be considered?

Ms. Blanchard stated Tompkins County has been successful because it didn't wait for the rules to be written, it moved forward based on its vision.

Mr. Stamm stated an organization needs to be created that can take advantage of the state and federal funding, but is not reliant on it.

PROS AND CONS TO THE SINGLE COUNTY STRUCTURE

- Real work versus survival
- Create organization that takes advantage of state and federal funding
- Be proactive
- Ability to advocate for specific population
- Ability to take advantage of shared resources that are available
- Ability to share resources for increased effectiveness
- Visibility
- Develop process/ability to meet increased workforce needs
- Better understanding of available resources to support business needs
- Ability to bridge required programs/policies with actual business needs
- Nurture and strengthen school to career partnerships
- Prepare community for the future
- Link needs of today and tomorrow between business and local agencies
- Maintain opportunity to keep viable link between agencies and business community
- Frustration with need to be compliant with funding sources
- Changed from great idea to "how do we get the money"
- Reporting requirements killed the golden goose
- Regulations constrained effectiveness versus expanding opportunities
- How can we make vision a reality
- Location/structure that is not financial drain to come together

Future Discussion

- Identify issues/resolutions
- Explore possibilities of becoming 501c3 organization to obtain outside funding
- Function under the umbrella of another agency within Tompkins County
- Partner with another Workforce Investment Board to reduce state responsibilities

Mr. Pederson stated the Board needs to decide what it wants and link that to the appropriate structure to move the vision forward. He suggested focusing the next Board meeting on what problems exist versus what options are available. He asked the Board to give thought to this and bring their ideas to the next meeting for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. in the Borg-Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library.