



Alaska Workforce Investment Board
Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Employment & Placement Committee Minutes
June 29, 2005

Attendees

Committee members: Rose Ellis, Kitty Farnham, Tom Nelson (*ex officio*), Gale Sinnott (*ex officio*), Tara Jollie for Corine Geldhof (*ex officio*), Molly Merritt-Duren (*ex officio*)

Staff: John Pratt

Guests: Bonnie Toleman

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Employment & Placement Committee of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board was called to order at 10:07 a.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2005, via teleconference by Chair Rose Ellis. There was not a quorum at the beginning of the meeting.

Presentation

Division of Public Assistance – Kitty Farnham, Mary Rogers, & Bonnie Toleman

Ms. Farnham walked the committee through the DPA newsletter distributed prior to the meeting. DPA is one of the largest One-Stop partner in terms of staff and has a very wide array of services. It's mission is to promote self-sufficiency and provide basic living expenses to Alaskans in need. Welfare reform has been very successful since 1997. The temporary assistance caseload has declined substantially during recent years, due largely to shifting clients toward employment and self-sufficiency through more transitional programs. Integration of services in the Job Centers is being closely examined and models to improve have been implemented. The division is receiving a \$205,000 Federal award from USDA for reducing its food stamp error rate. DPA has also received performance bonuses for the past three years for employment outcomes with families. Childcare is also a vital component for families on their way to becoming self-sufficient and seeking employment.

Ms. Toleman provided an overview of the Alaska Partnership For Healthy Communities and the Family Centered Services Customized Employment Project. The model is designed to help long-term welfare recipients with multiple barriers succeed in finding and keeping employment. They have been using their recent awards and bonuses to explore strategies to better serve complicated client families. Based on DVR's successful Customized Employment Grant model which serves severely disabled individuals. DPA is working with the same contractor (Joe Skiba) DVR has to provide training for the project. Programs have begun at the Mat-Su and Fairbanks sites. The pilots are expected to run through the end of 2006. Staff works closely with the families and gets to know them to co-develop a plan that extends across agencies to successfully move them into the workforce. The project will be subjected to a rigorous evaluation process.

Discussion Items

Native MOU

Mary Rogers addressed the what the Ops Workgroup is doing with the draft. The missing address information on page 2 has been updated. At the top of page 7, under E. the language should be changed to, "...providing *information and services...*" On page 7, F. Coordination of Services, the committee was queried regarding the correct language. Tom Nelson pointed out that the term "referral mechanisms" needs to be used to comply with Federal law. The committee consensus was that coordinate, rather than collaborate, is the correct language. The revision will change

coordination to collaboration, and collaborate to coordinate. On page 9, VI. Duration, Tom recommended amending the first line to state, "... may join as a partner and participate in the MOU." The committee concurred. On the signature page, lines for all the WIA sec. 166 grantee CEOs will be added. The committee decided that it is not necessary for Commissioner O'Clary to be a signatory.

Ms. Farnham suggested adding a line to the invitation letter directing questions regarding the meeting to John Pratt. Mr. Nelson contacted Gale Sinnott by telephone and requested that she join the meeting briefly to make a quorum and take action. Chair Ellis decided to remove Mayfield Evans from the committee roster. Ms. Sinnott called in at that point.

Action Items

Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Minutes Approval

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Native MOU

Kitty Farnham moved to endorse the Native MOU draft with the changes discussed and issue to the Native grantees and AWIB members following the meeting. Tom Nelson seconded the motion. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Discussion Items (continued)

Presentation Planning

Chair Ellis expressed interest in walking through the Job Center certification process and what it entails. Mr. Nelson was under the impression that responsibility lay with a different committee. There was some speculation as to whether Assessment & Evaluation did the work and E&P holds the certification authority. Staff will research the issue and report back. Since re-certification just occurred last year, Tom suggested postponing until a later date and proposed ABE/GED for the near term. Kitty concurred and proposed ABE/GED for July, DVR for August. Mr. Nelson will arrange for Amy Utse to make the ABE presentation at next month's meeting. Molly Merritt-Duren mention the tribal voc rehab component. Ms. Farnham recommended including TVR in DVR's presentation.

Strategic Planning – Promoting Hire of Alaskans

Ms. Farnham suggested that the best opportunity to do some good, comprehensive, strategic planning would be at the August face-to-face committee meeting; Chair Ellis concurred, saying it's very difficult to accomplish via teleconference. She proposed expanding E&P's meeting time to allow for adequate planning. All committee members should read R&A's Non-Resident Employment publication in preparation. Tara Jollie mentioned several examples of recent initiatives and measures being implemented to address the resident hire issue. Tom Nelson offered to prepare a summary of background information on Alaska residency as a hiring priority and what the state is doing about it.

Operator MOU

Kitty Farnham wanted to make sure that this topic doesn't drop off the Action Tracker and that the committee follows up on taking a hard look at the document and its deliverables. Mary Rogers will provide an update at the next E&P meeting. All committee members should review the information provided in the Job Center Orientation web link provided by Ms. Rogers.

Other Items

DBP Report - Tara Jollie

The state has received a \$615,000 federal phase I planning grant to help deal with the possible forthcoming military base closures (Eilson & Kulis). The NEG was reviewed by federal auditors;

there were no findings. The Polar Tanker MOU has been signed, expanding opportunities for Alaskans on Alaska's waters. An MOU to be signed soon with the Operating Engineers will enhance opportunities for apprenticeships. 19 STEP grants are in negotiation, 24 were denied.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m. by Chair Ellis. The next general meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 21, following the Native MOU summit in the DPA conference room at the Frontier Building.

Minutes submitted by: John Pratt