



Iowa Region 3 & 4

CEO - RWDB

RWDB Chair: Janet Dykstra

CEO Chair: Dale Arends

Region 3 & 4 Chief Elected Official Board and
Regional Workforce Development Board Combined Meeting

Thursday, March 22, 2018

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Governmental Services Center, 217 West 5th Street, Spencer
Room B**

RWDB Members Present: Reva Arends, Lee Beem, Susan Golwitzer, Linda Gray, Kristin Hanson, Rhonda Jager-Pippy, Tim Kinnetz, Lori Kolbeck, Kiley Miller, Diane Nelsen, Mike Schulte, Ranae Sipma, Carrie Turnquist, Kenneth VandeBrake, Gregory VerSteeg

RWDB Members Absent: Jason Anderson, Mike Carlson, Janet Dykstra, Vernon Nelson, Scott Rettey, Dave Swanson, Benjamin VanDonge

CEO Members Present: Dale Arends, Pam Jordan, Arlyn Kleinwolterink, Merle Koedam, Mike Schulte, Tim Schumacher, John Steensma, Pam Wymore

CEO Absent: Barry Anderson, Roger Faulstick

1. Call to Order, Greg VerSteeg called the meeting to order at 9:34am
2. Introduction of Members, State Staff and Guests
3. Welcome
4. Agenda Review
5. Approval of January 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes
 - a. RWDB Vote –Motion Ken, second Susan, approved.
 - b. CEO Vote – Motion Arlyn, second Pam Wymore, approved.
6. WIOA Core Partner Update – Adult Education and Literacy, Iowa Dept. for the Blind, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation
Lori – In February group was supposed to have an in-service training to talk about communication strategies, but this was cancelled due to weather. The core partners have not met since that time, but will be meeting next week. Will be talking about integrated services team that needs to be developed, consultant will be on the phone with them with ideas on how to move forward.
7. Regional Sector Board Update (Jason, Jolene)
Neither Jason or Jolene were in attendance, so Val gave brief update. Jolene has been working as a facilitator for the manufacturing sector board in the eastern half of the territories. There has been good turnout at those meetings. It is businesses leading the cause, identifying their concerns, areas of struggle, etc. This is an employer driven group, and is doing very well so far. Next meeting is this

afternoon. Will be discussing options of working together to recruit individuals as a whole rather than solely as individual companies. Val will be giving a program on recruiting with the IowaWorks website, and help the companies identify where there are layoffs or closures so they know where to target some of those recruitment opportunities. There is also interest in forming an additional group for the Kossuth county area, because there is enough interest over there to have their own group rather than travel as far. Sheldon's group is also very strong and manufacturer driven. Support partners haven't been as involved in that group yet, but hope to be more involved in future months. Sector boards are moving and showing a lot of positive activity.

Val asked Kiley to mention his involvement. Kiley spoke about the Corridor involvement in the sector boards. The Corridor involvement will be most heavy in the worker attraction and housing piece. Good progress behind the scenes on some of those things.

8. Nominations of Region 3-4 RWDB Members - Adult Education and Literacy and City Elected

Val gave an overview of the positions needing to be filled. Lisa Washington and George Kruger's positions need filled. Two people were nominated for George's position, and one nomination was made for Lisa's position. CEOs need to make a recommendation, and those will be submitted to the Governor. Dale will send a letter indicating the preference of the board.

On the subject of the Governor, several board members recently spoke to the Governor at various town hall events. Each of these conversations seemed to yield interest and attention from the Governor.

- a. CEO Vote AEL Nomination - Janet Leifeld – Motion Mike Schulte, second Pam Jordan, approved.
- b. CEO Vote City Elected Nomination – Steve Bomgaars – Motion Merle, second John, approved.

9. Update and Discussion of Realignment Committee meetings

Greg – State has said the only option they feel they can really fund is the two region option. Important to note that the public comment period goes until May 4th – Shelly Evans shelly.evans@iwd.iowa.gov can be e-mailed if you have an opinion that you want to have put into the public record. That address is also in the packet that was e-mailed to board members by Shelly Evans.

At the last meeting that was held they were ready to vote on the two region system, but held off to have the opportunity to hear public comments.

Lori spoke of some of the things that was discussed at the region 5 meeting and will be in those notes. Some questions that came up include: where did budget numbers comes from, how would advisory boards be affected, how will business needs be met, how will local plans and processes look, what is the timeline for the process?

The state is hoping to have a decision by June, and transition of boards would begin as early as July, and everything in place by October 2019. There are lot of things involved which will take a while to transition.

Size of new board hasn't really been discussed, but Val suspects it will be similar sized to what they are now to meet all the criteria that are in place for board makeup. Some talk of keeping existing boards in place in an advisory board only capacity, but won't have the funding or the power.

It's unclear how the CEO board will be represented if someone from each county needs to be on the board it would be a very large group.

It has been said that there is no plan to close offices over this, but we don't know what will happen down the road. If there isn't a requirement to have a One-Stop, those offices that aren't mandated will be the easiest to eliminate in the future. The state feels that only two regions can be afforded in the state at this time.

Dale – there doesn't seem to be much difference in cost between a 2 region, 3 region, or 4 region system. The money going out doesn't look much different until you hit 5 regions and above.

Dale – 4 region map might make sense in breakdown of NW, NE, SW, SE and doesn't cost much more than 2 region system.

Diane - AEA regions are also being cut in number. The entirety of the state government is doing this consolidation across multiple issues.

Val – federal legislation provides the format of how things can be structured under WIOA and who has the power to develop the board within the region. CEOs have the power to create the board.

A comment was made about how low unemployment seems like we must be doing a good job. Another mentioned that the ongoing training services are still needed in low employment times. A further comment was made that in most social services there are multiple issues to be addressed, and workforce is no different. People may need multiple types of assistance to become more productive citizens in the workforce.

Dale – did you all get the e-mail from Shelly that gives you the information? Group indicated yes. Take a look at that packet, there is a phone in meeting on the 26th for the CEOs. Any of the CEOs can do this, and give your comments.

Several comments were made by the group including:

Iowa cannot be a single region state, so two is the minimum amount of regions that are allowed.

We (this region) didn't upset DOL, our outcomes are good, our unemployment rates are down.

It's too far away to drive to services, region meetings get too far away. Phone meetings don't work effectively.

Regionalization seems to be the (unwanted) answer to everything. Example, 22 counties in a region for mental health has been a step back for Kossuth county. Are there people we should be talking to at the federal level on some of these things? Is there any way to get testimonials from the clients coming in and out of the door? These people are being well served, can we share that with the legislators?

Val – we do already do some of that. We hope that the employers will also share their experiences. We worked with an employer that needed 60 employees, and IWD did an intensive support with them to keep them from moving out of state. That company had to actually slow down the pipeline because they were getting so many applicants based on IowaWORKS's involvement. We help develop people to get them to be the type of employee they need to be to support the businesses.

Clarification - RWDB board can e-mail to Shelly to get their comments on record, but are not invited to the phone call for the CEOs on the 26th.

Greg will forward the collective comments for the Region 3-4 board to Shelly Evans as part of public comment.

10. Association of Iowa Workforce Partners (AIWP) Annual Conference - Partnerships with Purpose - Wednesday, April 18 to Friday, April 20, 2018 – Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center – Des Moines

Really a good conference. Board dollars can be used for travel if you would like to attend.

11. One-Stop Program Updates
 - a. Region 3-4 Integration Statistics
See page 8 of the packet. 185 new members, 112 unemployment claims, lots of seasonal and temporary unemployment in the region in the winter months. 849 total members receiving services in January. Hard to compare in raw numbers to bigger areas like Des Moines. Note that there was a printing error that cut the bottom line off the chart, and Val gave these numbers verbally. If you need a re-printed copy of this chart, contact Val.
 - b. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Individualized/Training Participants/Expenditures
See page 9 of the packet. Individuals enrolled in training at the more individualized level with associated expenditures.
 - c. WIOA Expenditure Report through 2/28/18
See page 10. This shows spending to date. We will hit the 80% expended per federal requirements.
 - d. WIOA Performance PY17
No regional performance information yet. Val will share once available.
 - e. Disability Employment Initiative Update
Val - Bridget who attended last month is out of the office today, but has been working hard to get acquainted with partners and businesses in the area. She met with 7 new clients this past week and got them all enrolled. Bridget will be starting training in June to be a benefits planner.
 - f. PROMISE JOBS Update
 - g. Wagner-Peyser Update
Linda spoke about both Promise Jobs and Wagner-Peyser. See her packet for details. Employment rates on page 1 for the different counties. Page 4, 5, and 6 show graphics of the different unemployment rates in different occupations. Page 1 shows the average FIP family. Linda spoke about job fair events with the community colleges.

Lee spoke of a personal experience with friend who spoke highly of the Iowa Lakes job fair and how many opportunities were represented there.

Val spoke of success doing “meet and greets” which are for a particular company, rather than regional job fairs that bring in multiple companies.
12. Regional Disability Standing Committee – Lori Kolbeck
Committee meeting is scheduled for next week. They haven’t met since our last meeting. State has gone over the physical accessibility review that this group approved last time. Survey was done of workforce staff and some of the local partners. Areas of improvement have been identified and ongoing training will continue. Looking at what is already available to assist with services and evaluate locally what additionally may be needed. Reminder that these meeting notes are being published on our board’s website, so you can look at them any time. Web address is www.iowawdb.gov – click on Region 3 and 4 – and you can get all the minutes there.
13. State Staff Update
None.
14. Partner Update
Dick Sievers – learned a lot today. Glad to be here.
Lori – several months back hired a new assistant in the Storm Lake office. She has jumped in and done a terrific job. Currently has a need in the Fort Dodge for a rehabilitation officer that has a master’s degree

in a human sciences field. Staff who are working in the high schools are working hard to develop camps and programs for them for the summer months.

Linda – thanks to everyone for bringing in the long sleeve shirts to donate.

Diane – national career readiness certificate – time factor is a big issue, hard for schools to set aside the time to do it. It's a free assessment, but one challenge is that schools are already giving so many other assessments, and the other issue is the time it takes.

15. Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment (May 24, 2018)
Motion to adjourn Tim Schumacher, second John, adjourned at 11:26am