The Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board, Inc.

MINUTES OF February 2, 2010

Site: The Workforce Connection, 303 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101

I. **WIB Call to Order:** WIB Vice-Chairman Paul Callighan called the Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

WIB Present (18): Jon Bates, Paul Callighan, Linda Campos, Angela Hite-Carter, James Fehlharber, Steve Gibson, Stephanie Lueder, Grant Nyhammer, John Oller, Amy Ott, Jim Pirages, Mark Podemski, Jesús Sáez Gimeno, Mary Beth Scholten, Nord Swanstrom, Shirley Walker, C. Mark Williams, Mike Williams **Absent (23):** Allan Barsema, Dr. Jack Becherer, Karen Brown, Shirley Burks, Michele Caldwell, John Cressman, Pedro Enriquez, Dr. Richard Fairgrieves, Lynn Godina, Luanna Grimes, Matthew Jones, Todd Kindred, Tim McGuire, Larry McKay, Kate McMahon, Dave Morgan, Richard Mowris, Dan Parod, John Phelps, Maureen Rosenberg, Jim Ryan, Mark Stefanic, Elton Turner

WIB Staff Present: Darcy Bucholz, Pamela Fettes, Trudy Jackson, Robert Jones, Sue Molyneaux, John Strandin

Partner Staff Present: Dan White – Rock River Training Corporation; Granada Williams – Rock Valley College; Linda Sullivan – disabilityWorks

Guests Present:, Rueben deLeon – AFLCIO' Gerald Lott – RYI, Julie Alsup – RYI, Diana Barthelman – Rock Valley College

II. **WIB Minutes of December 1, 2009:** No discussion.

Motion: Swanstrom **Second: Podemski** **Approved**

III. **Consent Agenda – Action Item:** Darcy Bucholz reviewed the summary items of the consent agenda. Item #1 and #3 have been requested to be removed and voted on separately by Linda Campos and Mary Beth Scholten respectfully. The items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

Vice-Chairman Callighan requested a motion to vote on items #2, 4, & 5 of the Consent Agenda and voice vote was also requested.

Motion: Pirages **Second: Podemski** **Approved**

Bates – Yes; Callighan – Yes; Campos – Yes, Hit-Carter – Yes; Fehlhaber – Yes; Gibson – Abstain; Lueder – Yes; Nyhammer – Yes; Oller – Yes; Ott – Yes; Pirages – Yes; Podemski – Yes; Sáez Gimeno – Yes; Scholten – Yes; Swanstrom – Yes; Walker – Yes; Williams, C. Mark – Yes; Williams, Mike – Abstain

16 – Yes Votes **2 – Abstain Votes**

Linda Campos voiced her concerns with the CCS youth program that has been approved by the Youth Council and the Executive/CEO committee. She expressed concern with regard to program purpose and delivery of said goals; and with the financial situation of CCS, LLC.

Dan White, Rock River Training Corporation's Accountant, addressed the Board, explaining the reimbursement process for contracted programs and the monitoring process in place for CCS.

Paul Callighan requested that a motion be made to separate the CCS program action and Fairgrounds Valley

Youth Academy program action.

Motion: Campos **Second: Swanstrom** **Approved**

Paul Callighan called for a motion to confirm the approval of the Comprehensive Community Solutions program for approval.

Motion: Podemski **Second: Scholten** **Approved**

2 – Abstain – Campos, Swanstrom

Paul Callighan called for a motion to confirm the approval of the Rockford Housing Authority, Fairgrounds Valley Youth Academy Program.

Motion: Scholten **Second: Walker** **Approved**

Darcy Bucholz reviewed Consent Agenda #3. This agenda item proposes changes to the WIB's Individual Training Account Policy related to Pell and other grant assistance. The workforce Investment Act requires a coordination of grant funds. Language in the policy has been modified to reflect the language in WIA. The words financial aid will be stuck and replaced with the word "assistance" and, and fees will be struck and replaced with and other education-related expenses.

Mary Beth Scholten expressed concern over the last sentence in the paragraph, which states "*If loans or personal funds are used for training, WIA staff may require the application of these funds prior to the application of WIA funds*." An individual may need to use personal funds for living expenses and this sentence offers the option of WIA funds not being available to the individual. If someone is unemployed and can get a student loan or has money set aside that the loan and/or personal monies be used to help them with food and housing rather than pay for the schooling, which can be done with Pell Grants and WIA funding. Discussion ensued among the members. It was decided to amend the language and strike the last sentence from the policy. Mike Williams requested that the record reflect that the policy states individuals have the option of choosing a less expensive training program.

Paul Callighan requested a motion to remove the last sentence of the ITA policy regarding funding (loans and personal monies) and to accept the wording changes as stated above.

Motion: Scholten **Second: Gibson** **Approved**

IV. **Rockford Youth Initiative Contract Award – Action Item:** The WIB is requested to approve a contact in the amount of $96,740 with Rockford Youth Initiative to provide services to 20 WIA eligible in-school youth in the *Student n Terprise* program. The term of the contract will be February 3, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Darcy Bucholz gave an overview of the Rockford Youth Initiative program. The program as originally submitted was questioned by DCEO because it was "employment generating", which is unallowable under WIA regulation. The program has been redesigned to eliminate the social enterprise aspects that were concerning to DCEO. The program will offer instruction in the concepts of entrepreneurship while providing youth with academic support, encouragement to assure that they graduate from high school and go on to further education/employment; and job readiness activities. Potential businesses may be launched from the business plans developed by the youth; hover , no WIA funds will be used to launch or capitalize the business.

Paul Callighan asked for a motion to approve the Rockford Youth Initiative Contract.

Motion: Podemski **Second: Bates** **Approved**

V. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - Presentation:** Genevieve Borich of RAEDC provided a presentation on the development of the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

(CEDS), and plans for execution of the strategy in Boone and Winnebago Counties.

Our area is economically distressed. In order to be economically distressed an area needs to have a per capita income below 80% and at least 3% unemployment higher than the national average. We are at 79% per capita income and our unemployment is 6% above the national average.

As a distressed region, we have an opportunity to receive additional grant funds. In order to qualify for these funds an Economic Development District (EDD) must be established in the region. Mark Podemski and C. Mark Williams spoke about the specifics of the EDD and the assistance it would provide to Boone and Winnebago Counties. Jim Pirages expressed concern about duplication of services and creating another agency to oversee what is already in place. Mark Podemski spoke to the importance of having an EDD in order to be eligible to receive the grants that can help our area. He also noted that the EDD will be made up of existing organizations and will not duplicate, but oversee

VI. **Resolution Supporting Establishing an Economic Development District – Action Item:** A resolution supporting the establishment of an EDD in our area was presented.

Paul Callighan asked for a motion to approve the resolution the support the formation of an EDD in our area.

Motion: Swanstrom **Second: Wiliams, Mike** **Approved**

VII. **Financial Report:** Dan White noted that ARRA funds are on target. He reported there are no concerns at this time.

VIII. **Executive Director's Report:** Darcy Bucholz reported on grants we have received, those that were not awarded, and grants we have yet to hear the outcome on. Board member training will happen on February 24th from 3:00 – 5:30 with networking from 5:30 to 6:30. The location has yet to be determined, but board members will be notified once a place is confirmed. Darcy also provided very brief information on the President's FY 2011 proposed budget. WIA program will remain at current levels.

Paul Callighan noted the letter that the UAW sent complimenting the RVC Dislocated Worker program on the effective and efficient orientations provided to former Chrysler workers that are now eligible and certified to receive Trade Act services.

VIII. **WIB Adjournment:** The WIB meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Items included with the WIB and CEO meeting packets:

1) 02/02/10 WIB/CEO Agenda
2) WIB Minutes of December 1, 2009
3) Consent Agenda
4) Rockford Youth Initiative
5) Financial Report
6) Information Item Summary

Trudy Jackson
Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board Date

(Signature affixed upon WIB approval) (Date affixed upon WIB approval)