

Members Present: Alan Summers, Joan Jablonski-Baxter, Victor Harris, June Hickey (via conference call), Kendra Humphreys, Debra Jackanicz, Kathy Lively, Robert Mees, and Michele Rheinecker (via conference call)

Members Absent: Angela Holmes-Young

Others Present: Roxanne Brewer-Coffey, Stephanie Castellano, Michelle Cerutti, Linda Cox, Cary Minnis, Phil Minnis, and Cindy Webb

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Alan Summers called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Alan Summers welcomed the group to the meeting. Alan suggested forgoing introductions as no new attendees were present; the committee agreed.

III. Approval of Minutes

Alan Summers requested approval of the minutes from the December 2, 2008, meeting. The group agreed to approve the minutes.

IV. Orders of the Day

A. One-Stop Center Reports

1. Traffic Reports

Cindy Webb distributed the *Core A/Local Services Summary* for the periods of December, 2008, and January, 2009, along with the *Resource Center Visitors Report* for the fourth quarter of 2008. Cindy summarized the report for the group.

2. Marion One-Stop Business and Employment Center

Cindy Webb reported the Marion office has experienced an increase in foot traffic due to the upcoming Circuit City layoffs as well as the tax preparation services being offered.

3. Mt. Vernon One-Stop Business and Employment Center

Victor Harris reported the Mt. Vernon office has experienced an increase in volume.

B. Illinois workNet

Cindy Webb distributed the *Illinois workNet Report* for January, 2009. Cindy reported there were 151 registrations for the month, resulting in an eighth place ranking state-wide. The "Job Boards" and "Find the Right Job for You" pages were among the most utilized pages on the Web site for the month. Cindy also reminded the committee about the Illinois workNet workshops held at the Marion and Du Quoin offices. Kathy Lively also reminded the committee that Cindy is a certified Illinois workNet trainer and is available to offer assistance.

C. Closures and Pending Layoffs

Michelle Cerutti informed the committee about the recent dislocated worker workshop held at Circuit City. Dislocated Worker Interest Surveys were distributed at the workshop; 130 surveys were completed and returned. One hundred eighty-five employees were laid off from Circuit City. Because the company is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy, workers will not have access to COBRA benefits. Information about the Illinois Comprehensive Health Insurance Program (ICHIP) was offered at the workshop. A link will be added to the Illinois workNet website specifically for Circuit City workers.

Michelle reported the Dislocated Worker Interest Survey will be completed by laid off individuals utilizing the Resource Rooms in order to more accurately account for dislocated workers affected by small layoffs in the region. Previously, the survey was only distributed at workshops.

Michelle reported Joy Technologies, who experienced layoffs employees several years ago, is now considered to fall under the Trade Adjustment Act regulations. Other layoffs in the region include 34 from Anheuser Busch in Mt. Vernon and 230 from Spartan Light Metals in Sparta.

D. Stimulus Legislation Discussion

Alan Summers asked the committee for ideas about how to best share information pertaining to the new economic stimulus legislation and its impact on Workforce Investment Area 25. Some of the programs affected will be the food stamp program and the unemployment insurance benefit extension. Alan requested the group to consider whether the One-Stop Committee Meetings would be the best venue for disseminating information. Other suggestions included a webpage on Illinois workNet and a blog. The group agreed, for the present time, the One-Stop Committee Meeting is the best vehicle to share information since it already meets on a monthly basis. The topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

E. Grant Update

Cary Minnis updated the committee about the grant concerning fiber infrastructure connecting healthcare providers, colleges and residents. Connect SI did not receive the grant. Of the 60 or 70 awards distributed only two went to One-Stops. All others went to community colleges. Cary will continue to research other grant sources.

Connect SI will be hosting kick-off meetings for industry clusters. An Energy meeting will be held on February 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at John A. Logan College. A Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Municipal Building. Participation from the respective industries, as well as economic development, is a key factor.

F. Other

Phil Minnis and Bob Mees reported the second National Electronics Warranty (N.E.W.) training class will be underway next week. A total of 37 employees are currently in training for home-based customer care representatives for N.E.W. Corporation. The company has indicated they project to fill 500 – 700 positions in this region. The positions are full-time, work-from-home, with a starting wage of \$9.75 per hour. John A. Logan College currently has two computer labs dedicated to the N.E.W. Corporation's training classes. Individuals interested in obtaining employment should apply on-line through the company's website.

G. Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 3, 2009**, at 8:00 a.m.

VI. Matters from the Floor

Debra Jackanicz informed the committee funds are still available for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Cindy Webb informed the committee about recent WIN curriculum training.

VII. Adjournment

Chairperson Alan Summers adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.