



INFORMATIONAL MEETING

May 27, 2009 • 10 AM – 11 AM

Members Present: Mike Fleming and David Kerr
Guests Present: Keith Lawing (Area IV) and Trent Howerton (Area III)
Staff Present: Armand Corpolongo, Susan Weidenbach, Keith Meyers, Linda Weaver, Shelly Jones, Shelly McDonald, Christine Bohannon, Cindy Nau, Caleb Asher, DeAnn Gideon, Dennis Cooper

Caleb stated the purpose of the meeting was to keep the State Board updated on what is happening within the workforce system.

ARRA

Susan Weidenbach reported the Summer Youth Program plan is for Kansas to serve 2200 youth (aged 14 – 24) in summer employment programs. All five local areas plan to spend all of their AARA youth allocations during this summer. One local area is remaining flexible so if they are unable to spend all the allocation this summer they will be prepared to have a summer program again next year. Susan stated TEGL (Training Employment Guidance Letter) reporting will need to be done on a monthly basis and that Summer Youth Program participants will need to be tracked and reported separately. AJLA states **KANSASWORKS.com** is tracking all the information required by the TEGL, so they should have that available by June 30 and the first report is due to USDOL on July 15.

Secretary Kerr inquired about the total stimulus dollars for youth and whether all of this had to be spent in one year. Caleb stated it is 7.1 million dollars. Susan replied we have until June 30, 2010; however, the federal administration has requested we spend all of the Recovery Act allocation this summer, but this may not be possible.

Susan stated the cost per participant, based on the evolving plans, averages about \$2,800 per youth. There are other costs involved such as direct support services for youth (i.e., transportation) that has to be dealt with in order to assure a youth is successful. Those costs will be available by the first part of July.

Caleb stated the Summer Youth Program will be the indicator for the success of the Recovery Act. He reported Phil Moreland, with ETA, and Deb Galloway came down to visit early in May. They also visited Areas II and III. They felt things were looking pretty good at the state level and at the two local areas they visited. Phil did say the state will be measured by the success of this program and they will be leaning on the state to make sure that it is moving forward, things are recorded, etc. Caleb emphasized the need to make sure the state monitors things closely, especially in the first month, because it could be too late to make a difference for the summer if it is done later.

Workforce Study Task Force: Green Jobs

Keith Meyers stated at the State Board meeting in April the Workforce Study Task Force was tasked with establishing priorities for green jobs in order to be prepared for the upcoming release of grants related to green jobs—500 million dollars available through the USDOL. A meeting regarding green jobs in Kansas was held with the Task Force and representatives from the five local areas. It was decided to do a survey of the five local areas to help establish priorities. A survey went out last week to get an idea of the number of green jobs, both current and anticipated (three years out). Once the survey is completed, an evaluation will be done as a guide for helping drive these priorities. The main areas of focus are energy training, pathways out of poverty, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Keith stated there will be a significant amount of the 500 million that is going to be placed in the category of “How do we retrain people who are affected by all of this restructuring in the auto industry?” Word is that probably 50 million of that 500 million is going to be focused on that specific area.

We hope to get the results of the survey back toward the end of this week and then prepare to respond to the grant opportunities once released.

PY09 WIA Allocations

Armand Corpolongo reported on the WIA Allocation for PY09 referring three charts—one on next year’s WIA allocations and two bar charts comparing funding levels from PY06 – PY09.

The funding budget cycle begins July 1 for Adult and Dislocated Worker programs; and for Youth it begins in April. Depending on how quickly congress acts to appropriate funds, the state generally receives its funding notice for WIA in late April or early May. It is all formula driven and the formulas are set in the law. The state receives its funding share based on a comparison of its data to the national numbers. Kansas traditionally ends up with about 1 percent of the national share of WIA funds. The state, in turn, distributes the funds to the local areas based on that same formula. There is a “hold harmless” provision in WIA that allows for 90 percent of the state’s relative share to be maintained in the Adult and Youth programs which means the state is guaranteed at least 90 percent of its prior year’s relative share. There is no “hold harmless” provision for Dislocated Worker.

Armand stated, by law, the state is required to allocate 85 percent of the Adult and Youth funding to the local areas. The state can withhold fifteen percent for statewide activities, which the state has done. In Rapid Response the law requires that the state send out at least 60 percent of the funding to the local areas, by formula. Twenty-five percent is held back for Rapid Response activities and 15 percent for state-wide activities.

Discussion was held regarding the 30-day policy for public comment.

The next meeting date to be announced.

Meeting adjourned.