

MINUTES
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING
August 21, 2013
SLATE Missouri Career Center – Central West End

Members Present: Kelley Bernardi, Donny Carroll, Kevin Schaedler, Len Toenjes, Katherine Joslin, Rhonda Garrett, Mick Williams, Darryl Chatman, Lydia Padilla, Ed Hamilton, Cindy Hess, Gregory Hill, Russell Illy, Steve Johnson, Cheryl Lovell, Timothy Murrell, John Reed and James Skain.

Michael Holmes, WIB Director and LEO Designee.

Members Apologies Sent: Herman Noah, Michelle Darden, Eddie Davis, Sherry Lappe, Jane Kerlagon, Frank Lamm Jr., Jerry Sagona, David Walker Jr., Michael Walter, Patrick Bannister, John Beatty, Jeff Cartnal, Pat Coleman, Jeather Smith and Robert Wasserman.

Not Present: Reginald Young

SLATE Staff: Kim Neske, Frank Alaniz, Bonnie Mireles and Susan Fulton.

Guests: Jim Kolve, AFL-CIO; David Kessel, Employment Connections; Jeffrey Taylor, Job Corps; and Mike Gavura, DWD.

Len Toenjes called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the SLATE Missouri Career Center-Central West End, 4811 Delmar.

- WIB Introductions: Roll call completed.
- Consent Agenda: Len called for questions and/or discussions, additions, changes to the June 19, 2013 (Full Board) meeting minutes as written, July 17, 2013, Executive Committee highlights included. **With no opposition voiced, a motion was made by Cindy Hess to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Steve Johnson. Motion carried.**
- Budget Overview, Additional Grant Opportunities: Kim Neske reported that estimates for carry over funds were fairly accurate. So there is a little bit of money to carry the agency until October. Mr. Holmes stated that all contracts were approved by the WIB in May/June. No new contracts have been added. SLATE's staffing contracts are MERS/Goodwill and St. Louis Community College. The Youth vendors are MERS/Goodwill, Employment Connections, Family and Workforce Centers of America and Alternative Opportunities/JESS.

Mr. Holmes said that on September 9th Congress will be back in session. The major theme in DC for all national organizations is to turn back sequestering. He also noted that we are a part of a group with the American Association of Community Colleges. He has been invited to their November meeting to talk about how to become better partners. SLATE has a good relationship here, but other areas around the country don't. Cindy Hess noted that a lot of times they view themselves as competitors.

Mr. Holmes also discussed additional grants that have been awarded that SLATE is a part of. There have been 2 ex-offender grants awarded. Father's Support received \$1.4 million to help the adult ex-offender population. SLATE and Family and Workforce Centers of America will assist with services for that grant as well. SLATE received \$818,000 in grant monies to work with youth in the juvenile court system. A RFP will be issued for providers of those services. SLATE will be looking a contractor to work with the courts and Judge Jimmy Mason's school. We are currently waiting on DOL to let us know when we can start using those grant dollars. Two other National Emergency Grants have been issued. One is for dislocated workers and includes those who were unemployed for just 1 day. That NEG is divided into 2 parts: 75% of the monies have to be spent on training and 25% on OJT. So if an area uses all the

training dollars and no OJT dollars, they have to pay back the training dollars. There is also a NEG for Hostess and Yellow Pages that is just around \$300,000. Information sessions with Ranken have been set up for those trade/NEG customers.

Mr. Holmes also noted that starting next week SLATE has meetings set up with all 23 of the building trades. Mr. Holmes said that he has had people tell him they want the union halls back in the City. Mr. Holmes has asked the trades if they are willing to do training in the City. Steve Johnson asked what kind of response has he gotten and Mr. Holmes said he has been told that it's not going to happen. Too much money has been spent on the training facilities they have. Len Toenjes said there are 8-10 still in the City. Mr. Holmes said SLATE is trying to get the trades to tell us what qualifications they are looking for. So far 4 have agreed to hold orientations in the City at SLATE. SLATE will help the interested individuals prepare for the application process. Operating Engineers will be the first session on Tuesday. Len interjected that in regards to construction, it's non-stop recruiting to get young individuals interested in construction careers. Right now, his school has 125 empty seats out of 400. Cheryl Lovell requested a copy of the information session flyer so she can pass on to her clients. John Reed also asked and suggested posting the information on the WIB members' companies' social media sites. Susan will e-mail flyer to the WIB. Mr. Holmes also said SLATE is working with the Painter's Union to have a session in September. The union has offered transportation and lunch to let potential candidates actually see what they do. It was also stated by Mr. Holmes that SLATE is trying to put together meeting with the pre-apprenticeship programs to find out what they are doing with their customers: sending to apprenticeship programs or once they completed, the program is over. Cheryl noted that she hasn't been seeing individuals referred on to apprenticeship programs. Len said they began tracking the number of work hours and in 2012 there were 9 million work hours, down from 17 million. Steve noted that it appears there are projects in the pipeline for the area.

- Performance/Data Reports: Performance as of 7/14/13 was reviewed. Mr. Holmes noted that for the first time in a long time, there was no red. He did say performance would change next year as we will most likely see a drop in the numbers. This will be due in part to the ruling that individuals on unemployment are no longer required to report every 4 weeks to the career centers unless chosen. Donny said right now the city career centers get about 125 of those individuals per week. James Skain clarified the ruling a little: all claimants are required to report in the first 4 weeks after filing. After that in person report, it is not necessary to come in. However, there are targets such as EUC and RJS. The EUC program is scheduled to end in December of this year. Mr. Holmes noted that for those individuals reporting that first/only time, it is up to SLATE staff to sell the services of the career center. It was noted by Mr. Holmes and Donny that we still have the METP program and there are about 8000 individuals waiting to be called in. Mr. Holmes said there will be a change in how SLATE works with customers. There will probably be more job resource fairs. Mike Gavura said with the changes, it moves the workforce system to be of value to employers.

Len asked what the future was of the Central West End office. Mr. Holmes said he has a meeting with the State on the 29th. He will have to talk to the State in special session which starts in September. He said he has to have state approval to close the facility since it is state owned. If a decision isn't reached by June 30, 2014, Mr. Holmes will have to make a decision. He said that we can float costs for awhile, but a decision will have to be made. Len also asked what percentage do the grants, discussed earlier, cover in what was lost in funding cuts. Mr. Holmes said we had a \$1.4 million cut and have gotten back \$1 million in grants. Len asked Darryl if there were any updates with the 501c3 Darryl said the annual registration was due and that the main need is a budget.

Len asked that grant dollars received be added to the key indicators. He also noted that the number of employers contacted is up and asked Bonnie for an update. Bonnie said that the business service reps have been attending more networking events and having to go out more to meet the employers. She said it seems like there is now more of an employer presence than job seeker. They have been getting a lot of calls about OJT. Mr. Holmes did note that the key indicators are being revised. Our data system has changed so he has given Susan directive to see what stats can be pulled. Once complete, the revision will be brought back to the Board to see if they feel it gives a good picture. Cindy did ask if sections such as the labs mean courses or people. Donny noted it was people.

- Other Business: Len asked to go around the table and have each member explain what trends they have been seeing in their areas of expertise:
 - Steve-there are a number of St. Louis companies announcing expansions.
 - Ed-hospitality negotiations at a stand-still in regards to healthcare.
 - Cindy-enrollment lower than expected. The college is also starting to call for greater accountability for those on financial aid. Career Coach was added as a guidance tool to stlcc.edu. link will be sent to Board.
 - Tim-had 400 seniors complete internships in career and technical programs. Hoping for 600 this year. In February received \$500,000 to pay for dual credits. Working with the Community College and Webster to focus on 3 areas: digital design, IT and health science.
 - Kathy-currently have 50 positions available. They are seeing home and community based businesses expanding.
 - James-DES has the new RJS program. The maximum amount of time a person can received benefits is 20 weeks as the emergency program is going to end.
 - Kevin-on the manufacturing side, big box retail is down. With their national accounts/commercial side sales are up 35%.
 - Rhonda-aggressively hiring Union employees. Hiring 60-70 people. Next year, plan is to add an additional 40-50. There is an aggressive push on the salary side too. Looking for diversity.
 - Lydia-seeing a gap between qualified candidates. Her company is being asked to do a lot of headhunting. She also noted a new type of recruiting, oDesk, where employees bid on a job and do it remotely.
 - Cheryl- had to reduce the number of individuals receiving assistance and will most likely continue next year doing the same. She said they have over 15,000 waiting for assistance and no voucher have been issued for section 8 housing for a year and will probably continue into next year.
 - Mick-seeing IT contracts cut the closer it gets to the end of the government's fiscal year. He is seeing a push for service disabled individuals and noted that a lot of individuals are taking around a 40% pay cut.
 - John-on October 1st, state exchanges kick in so hopefully people will be able to get a competitive edge on their healthcare rates.
 - Russ-last several months have been feast or famine. Companies aren't spending and when they do they want a quick turn-around.
 - Greg-seeing fairly flat growth rate.

Len said there would be brief committee meetings once the meeting had adjourned. The motion to adjourn the WIB meeting was made by Ed Hamilton, with Kelley Bernardi seconding the motion. All board members were in favor, motion carried. The meeting ended at 9:00 am. Next meeting is October 16, 2013 at 8:00 am.

Signed,



..... **Donny J. Carroll, WIB Secretary**

..... **February 19, 2014**
Date