



THE VOICE OF WISCONSIN'S LOCAL  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS

## **8-12-09 WAJTE Meeting**

Members Present: Francisco Sanchez, Don Sykes, Sally Cutler, Jerry Hanoski, Pat Schramm, Cheryl Welch, Dick Best, Steve Terry Bob Borremans

Others Present: Department of Workforce Development Staff: Gary Denis; Heather Johnson; Mari Kay-Nabozny, Workforce Systems Coordinator; Michelle St. Clair, Coordinator, Mark Kessenich

*Sanchez called the meeting to order at 3:20*

### **1. Approval of minutes**

Welch motioned to approve the minutes; Schramm seconded. Motion carried.

### **2. Chair Report**

Sanchez reported on meeting with Secretary Gassman. He commented that Gassman noted that costs and obligations should be reported in the CORE system (e.g. once summer youth positions are filled, there is a field that allows the reporting entity to identify wages obligated through the end of the summer program). Denis commented that the state will soon be providing clarification on reporting via memorandum from Nancy Elks.

There was brief discussion about the ARRA data reported in the Workforce Times; it will continue to reflect what the local workforce development boards report to Kay-Nabozny.

Borremans motioned to continue to report the data as it has been reported to date. Cutler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sanchez also relayed that he discussed the need for more Dislocated Worker funds given the decrease in federal funding coupled with the increased demand for services. Gassman indicated that DWD would be submitting a national emergency grant request.

While meeting with Secretary, Re-employment services (RES) at Job Centers was also discussed. Solomon will be setting up individual meetings with each WAJTE Director in order to individually discuss and better coordinate RES services (there have been instances where RES is duplicating services already offered). Discussion about RES services ensued. It was noted that there isn't a system in place to track services across WIA partners. In addition, it was also commented that there has been a failure to discuss RES services as part of the larger workforce system. Sanchez stated that Solomon was not invited to the August meeting because it was connected to the annual meeting in Superior, but would be invited to the next WAJTE meeting in September.

St. Clair commented that when it was discovered at the statewide business services meeting in July that Job Service hired a statewide Business Services Coordinator, there was discussion about bringing Solomon in to WAJTE Directors to discuss how his statewide business services person will work with business services at local workforce development boards. In addition,

Solomon will be asked to discuss how the RES orientation referral process will be institutionalized.

Terry requested that Sanchez better communicate with WAJTE Directors about the communications between him and Secretary Gassman. Sanchez stated that he would send an email out to WAJTE Directors to ask for input on agenda topics from them. In addition, Sanchez would try to schedule regular meetings with Secretary Gassman so that Directors would be aware of when they would be meeting. Note that per motion made at a previous meeting, minutes from meetings with Secretary Gassman should be shared with WAJTE Directors.

Sanchez reported that DWD representatives have had discussions with WTCS representatives; on September 18, 2009, technical college representatives will be meeting to discuss policies and procedures for the new eligibility calculations for Pell grants and to also discuss procedures for DWD's Opportunity Grants. In addition, DWD would be hosting the webinar about Opportunity Grants within the next two weeks; these funds are to be spent by June 2010. Denis reminded WAJTE Directors that these grants are intended to encourage people to return to school.

There was discussion about the Department of Labor's common measures. Denis commented that common measures are to begin in PY2009. DWD has obtained the waiver for common measures; negotiations between DWD and DOL have yet to begin to establish performance measures for the state. There was some discussion about common measures.

**Welch motioned to request that DWD request that DOL apply the common measures negotiated for PY2009 to PY2008 if it would not be detrimental to the PY2008 performance of local workforce development boards. Welch's staff (Hesse) time would be offered to perform the analysis. Motion seconded by Borremans; motion carried 7-1, with Best casting the dissenting vote.**

### **3. Statewide Application Strategic Planning**

Sanchez provided an overview of the association's statewide concept for an Energy Training Partnership application to the US Department of Labor in partnership with the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP). It was proposed that the association develop a proposal:

- (1) To build systems connections between apprenticeship and the workforce development system through "Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship – eg Industry Navigators," who would provide outreach and inreach to Job Center partners and clients in order to better connect low-skilled and under represented populations to career pathways in the skilled trades,
- (2) To provide two statewide coordinators for program management, and
- (3) To provide green job training to prepare the workforce in weatherization, utility, or green manufacturing occupations. (Workforce development boards would identify the in-demand training and preferred training provider for their respective workforce development areas.)

Sanchez asked whether WAJTE Directors confirmed support of this concept for a statewide Energy Training Partnership, which was discussed at an inpromptu meeting of directors prior to the start of the annual meeting where a quorum was present. WAJTE Directors unanimously agreed to support the motion by Cutler to partner with WRTP as an association on a statewide application to develop an Industry Navigator Program statewide and also support green job training for in demand energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors, which was seconded by Borremans. WAJTE Directors unanimously agreed to the motion.

Cutler provided an update of discussions that have been held for a statewide application in Wisconsin for the Recovery Act's *Health Care Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries* grant. Cutler explained that the statewide committee is developing a three-pronged proposal for health care, including workforce development (1) long-term health care, (2) upgrading skills for nurses, and (3) supporting cooperatives for long-term care. In particular, Wisconsin is looking to Kansas as model for apprenticeship. The committee is also looking at other models for personal care. She commented that she recently sent out email asking workforce development boards to report on what they are currently doing in health care. The North Central board may submit the grant application.

There was a question about the scope of the health care application. Cutler clarified that the application would be statewide though programs may be piloted in a few areas (for example, long-term care apprenticeships may be piloted in Racine and Rhinelander. Terri mentioned that the Northwest CEP could contribute the data that it has pulled together as a result of previous grants.

Sanchez relayed to WAJTE Directors the correspondence that he had received from the national Manufacturing Skills Standards Council from Sheryl Billups to capture the High Growth opportunity within DOL's most recent SGA. The national council would like to partner with WWDA on an application for resources to support the promulgation of Manufacturing Skill Standards Certification throughout Wisconsin by supporting training and covering assessment costs. He also relayed that MSSC staff would be willing to draft, or join a drafting team. Discussion ensued. Directors agreed to support further investigation and solicitation of resources for MSSC training. Sanchez would contact Phillips.

#### **4. Election of WAJTE Officers**

There was discussion about WAJTE Officers. In PY2008, Sanchez served as chair, Borremans as Vice Chair, Cutler as Secretary and Best as Treasurer. There was a question about the term of officers in the bylaws. Under WWDA bylaws, officers serve one term.

**There was a motion to re-elect officers as they are this year for next year. Sykes seconded and motion carried unanimously.**

**Cutler motioned to develop a succession plan for WAJTE Officers whereby the Vice Chair would become chair at the beginning of the next program year; Welch seconded and motion carried unanimously.**

#### **5. WAJTE Subcommittees**

St. Clair provided an update to the Statewide Business Services group. She apprised WAJTE Directors about who the current members of the statewide business services group were and then reviewed information about recent and upcoming meetings and conference calls. St. Clair reminded WAJTE Directors that the group was formed in order to share best practices. She commented that in accordance with that direction, quarterly meetings were to be organized and business services members would submit agenda items to her. Given travel issues, members sought to have longer meetings to justify travel time. However, in July a quarterly meeting was scheduled, but a sufficient number of agenda items had not been given to justify a 10:00a to 3:00p statewide business services meeting, so the meeting had been scheduled from 10:00a to noon.

There was some discussion about the reason d'être of the group. WAJTE Directors wanted the group to identify a more specific purpose (such as to develop plans around sector strategies that would help statewide). The group's proposal should be brought back to WAJTE Directors.

**6. DWD Report**

Denis provided an update to WAJTE Directors about state furloughs and waivers; the waiver for the work readiness measure is the only one that must be resubmitted to DOL.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00p.

*Respectfully submitted by Michelle St. Clair*