

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
PLANNING COMMITTEE  
LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

**March 18, 2003 at 2:30 p.m.**

**AT**

**Lake County Department of Job and Family Services**

**Committee Members Attendance**

Dave Kalina  
Joe Francesconi  
Roger Sustar

**Staff Attendance**

Donna Mona  
Pam Fiederer  
Carol Anderson

Dave Kalina called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2003, Meeting.

**A motion was made by Dave Kalina to approve Minutes of January 23, 2003, and seconded by Joe Francesconi. All approved, motion passed.**

**Old Business**

Pam Fiederer reviewed the Request for Proposal for Intensive/Training Services program to be provided to Adults and Dislocated Workers in FY 03. It was noted that the number of pages were reduced. Background information was separate. There was discussion on how many proposals were sent out this year; how many were received back last year.

**New Business**

Pam Fiederer explained that there may be some changes that this committee would like to make regarding "Identifying Needs of Business/Employers to be served by One-Stop Center," which is excerpted from Lake County's Five-Year WIA Plan.

1(a) Bullet #3, "The identified workforce investment needs of business" which currently reads "To attract and retain high-skill, high-performance employees" Joe Francesconi suggested a change be made in which the line would read "To *identify*, attract and retain ....."

Mr. Francesconi also suggested moving the first line [1(a) Bullet #4], which refers to assistance with downsizing and business closures listed under "Resources and services to meet these needs may include," be moved to the last item on this list.

The committee agreed with the above changes.

1(a) Bullet #8 which reads, "Information about/referral for hiring incentives, employee training resources, and employment law," Mr. Francesconi asked how we provide employment law services? Pam Fiederer explained that we get phone calls from employers asking questions such as "what are the child labor laws" or "do they have to get work permits." Pam will answer questions that are asked if the questions do not require legal assistance. Donna Mona said another way to provide this service is on the website. There is link on the website with information. We are linked to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services if a person would have a question about unemployment.

Mr. Francesconi explained in detail H1B. This is a hundred million dollar grant which is for technical skills training. This is a bill that was set up under the American Competiveness and Workforce Improvement Act which allows employers to be competitive without having to bring in foreigners.

The question was asked if these dollars were available to WIB Boards only? Mr. Francesconi explained that 75% of grant funds will be awarded to local boards established under section 117(WIA) that will carry out such programs through the One Stop or a regional consortia of local boards. The remaining 25% of the available grant funds will go to business partnerships that represent more than one business.

Dave Kalina asked how we can get these funds. How specific will we need to be. Donna Mona said the application would have to spell out the details. Also Ms. Mona said that we would need to find out who would receive the money - when money comes in after application, where would it go? Donna Mona will have a staff person explore what we need to do and confer with our legal counsel.

Mr. Francesconi stated that we need to create a consortium; what does that mean and how quickly can that be done?

Pam Fiederer will research the regulations of H1B.

The question was asked what we need to have in place to go out and identify and develop resources like this? We need to research where available resources are. Dave Kalina felt that in the process of making these resources available, we also need to make them accessible.

Mr. Francesconi brought up the question that was asked by Dave Kalina at the last Board meeting of what the economic impact is, and what is the return on investment? Mr. Francesconi asked Ms. Mona if this was on the list of things to be looked at. Donna Mona explained that we do not currently have access to that information. Service Link does not collect this information. However, the State is in the process of developing a new computer system called "SCOTT"

Dave Kalina suggested we tell the State to change the data base to make this information accessible so the workforce boards can see the impact of the investments.

Donna Mona will write a letter from the Planning Committee to the State asking for a way to track how effective the WIB Boards are. Dave Kalina will sign the letter.

Mr. Francesconi asked Ms. Mona if there was a summary on the proposed Reauthorization of WIA that the Committee could review. Donna Mona will E-mail the Re-Authorization of WIA to Mr. Francesconi and other Planning Committee members.

Mr. Francesconi said that Mr. Sandy Halpert questioned the healthcare initiative in Lake County at the last WIB Meeting. Have we heard anything about healthcare initiative in Lake County? Ms. Mona explained that we had just received a survey from the State on health care which Pam Fiederer completed and returned. Ms. Fiederer said the survey was asking about specific workforce initiatives that we were aware of in this area that we were taking on State, Federal, and or local level. Ms. Fiederer is not aware of anything that was being done in Lake County. We have training available through ITA's.

Mr. Francesconi asked Ms. Fiederer to look into the NEO Coalition for Healthcare Initiative. Mr. Francesconi will get more information on this for Ms. Fiederer.

The next meeting date was set for April 30, 2003, at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.