

**Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
The Alaska Workforce Investment Board
Business Meeting at UAA Commons
Anchorage, Alaska
November 17, 2004**

DRAFT MINUTES

Roll Call

Lt. Governor Loren Leman, Katherine Farnham, Andy Baker, Rod Betit, Richard Cattanach, Rose Ellis, Neal Foster, Mayfield Evans, Jim Laiti, Don Brandon, Terry Miller, Ginger Stock-McKenzie, David Stone, Colleen Ward, M.J. Longley, Guy Bell, Mike Black.

Introductions

Chair Baker introduced the new members to the Workforce Investment Board. M.J. Longley, Don Brandon, and Mayfield Evans gave a brief introduction of themselves. Lt. Governor Loren Leman addressed the Workforce Investment Board, stating that workforce development and workforce training continues to be an important part of Alaska. The administration is excited about things that are happening in our resource industry, but recognized that trained workers are an integral part of the workforce, and we need to make sure that we're continuing to promote training workers.

Chair Baker asked the guests to introduce themselves.

Agenda Changes

Chair Baker changed two agenda items. Neal Foster moved to approve the agenda, David Stone seconded. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

David Stone moved for the approval of the August 12th, 2004 minutes, Neal Foster seconded. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Chair Baker introduced Mona McAleese as the new executive director for the AWIB. Mona McAleese stated that she's excited to be the executive director, and is excited to see all that is happening with workforce development.

Public Testimony

Chair Baker opened the meeting to public testimony.

Floyd from Angoon called in and spoke on behalf of the Youth Opportunity Program.

Sharon Olsen spoke about the Alaska Native Coalition on Employment and Training (ANCET).

Gary Hanson, the Regional Manager for Cook Inlet Tribal Council, gave public testimony. He said there are 36 Youth Opportunity Programs in the country, six of which are tribal grantees, of which CITC is one. They have 40 different sites across the state in every region, and they have over 3,300 enrolled in the program.

Adam Demintieff narrated a Power Point presentation on the Youth Opportunity Program in the TCC region. At the end of Adam's presentation, Commissioner O'Claray stated if that is a successful program, we should get behind that.

Commissioner O'Claray then gave his public testimony. He was in Seattle meeting with the commercial fishing industry trying to get more Alaskans hired in the fishing industry. The Administration has started several initiatives with the fishing industry to employ more Alaskans. The Governor's initiatives in revitalizing the salmon industry are starting to pay off. Also, the State has spent 50 million dollars in marketing, infrastructure, and individual grants to fishermen that were adversely impacted by the farmed fishing. Governor Murkowski has a new initiative called Jobs for Alaska's Future, and the department will be focusing all of their resources on one primary objective, and that is to put Alaskans to work. The WIB is a major player with respect to this strategy and initiative.

With respect to the Gas Pipeline Act, the Federal Government will be putting 20 million dollars on the table specifically for pipeline employee training and up to three percent of that is dedicated to a training facility to train pipeline workers in Fairbanks. Governor Murkowski would like to see the producers of this project meet a 90 percent Alaskan hire standard. Commissioner O'Claray stated that the Workforce Investment system is designed to be driven by the business community. Commissioner O'Claray stated employers are starting to learn the value of hiring workers that have coped with disabilities. Older workers are also major top performers for employers.

Carlene, the youth employment specialist with Central Council Tlingit Haida, operates the youth employment program in Southeast. She gave public testimony on her program.

Caroline Williams, the youth development specialist for the village of Saxman, gave her presentation.

Elaine Jack, from Angoon, who runs a program at the youth center, also gave a Power Point presentation.

Chair Baker closed the public comment and thanked everyone for their input.

AWIB Regulations

Chair Baker moved in the agenda to the action items, AWIB regulations.

Mona McAleese stated they had minor regulation changes in the Workforce Investment Act and the STEP program. She stated the regulation changes were not substantial, and they are at the final stages of where they need to have a motion.

David Stone turned everyone's attention to Tab 11 in their meeting binders where the draft language was, and read from the draft report. David Stone moved to adopt 8AAC 84 and 8AAC 86 as revised by the Department of Law. Neal Foster seconded. The MOTION passed unanimously.

STEP Regulations

Chair Baker moved to the STEP regulations. Mona McAleese stated these changes went through the Department of Law and they were not substantial. David Stone made a motion to adopt those portions of 8AAC 87 dealing with the STEP Program that are under authority of the Board as revised by the Department of Law. Neal Foster seconded. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Recognitions

Chair Baker recognized Patrice Parker for her years of service.

David Stone read Resolution 05-04 honoring Katherine Farnham. Chair Baker called for a motion, Colleen Ward moved, Ginger Stock-McKenzie seconded, and the Resolution passed unanimously.

Chair Baker then addressed Resolution 05-03, the certification of One-Stops, and referred everyone to Tab 6 in their meeting binders. Chair Baker requested a motion for Resolution 05-03, Colleen Ward moved, David Stone seconded, and the Resolution passed unanimously.

Presentation, ESD – Ken Mill

Ken gave a presentation of the Employment Security Division. Ken stated the ESD is the One-Stop operators, and administers 13 of 17 programs in the Alaska Job Center Network. Over the past year they have had 12,520,484 individual job searches on Alaska's Job Bank, an increase of 2.6 million from the previous year. They listed 45,923 job openings on the Alaska Job Bank. Mr. Mill provided everyone with a handout of his Power Point presentation outlining statistics and numbers relating to the Employment Security Division. He fielded questions from the Board and concluded his presentation.

Recognition for Katherine Farnham

Katherine Farnham joined the meeting and Lt. Governor Leman presented her with a plaque and recognized her for her service as AWIB executive director.

Funding, ASD Director Guy Bell

Guy Bell did a presentation on funding, and distributed a handout to the Board. He talked about general funding streams, and the principals surrounding those funding streams. He also showed funding allocations between the AWIB, the Division of Business Partnerships, and the Employment Security Division. He didn't focus on performance; he focused his presentation on dollars. Mr. Bell stated the Workforce Investment Act is the primary federal funding stream for the purpose of providing job training for the state.

Guy showed a quick slide on the youth program. The youth program is overseen by the youth council, and it is a sub-group of the AWIB and serves youth 14 to 21 both in and out of school.

Bell next showed a slide on statewide and local activity components of the budget. The set-aside for statewide activities is 15 percent, and one-third of that can be used for state administration. In the case of local administration, 10 percent of the WIA funding can be set aside for local administration.

Mr. Bell stated Alaska is unique in that employees and employers contribute to unemployment insurance, and by state law, employees contribute one half of one percent of their salary to unemployment insurance, and according to statute, twenty percent of that amount is put into the State Training and Employment Program. And the purpose of that program is to reduce future claims against unemployment insurance.

Bell gave a brief discussion of the Technical Vocational Education Program, and explained how the program was funded. Mr. Cattnach requested the AWIB evaluate how effectively that money is being spent, as compared to the STEP Program. Ms. Ward suggested the legislative committee focus on that and report back to the Board so they can provide some direction to the legislature on how funds should be handled in the future and if the performance is acceptable.

Katherine Farnham stated she believes the regulations were passed with a component asking for the TVEP grantees to begin more reporting. Colleen Ward directed everyone to Tab 11 at page 9, and questioned if this Board was obligated to make certain these regulations were adhered to by these institutions.

Katherine Farnham questioned the 20 percent. Guy Bell reiterated that, under Alaska law, one half of one percent of employee wages is paid into unemployment. .1 percent of employee wages goes into STEP, .1 goes into TVEP. So each of those, together, constitutes twenty percent of the employee contribution. Ms. Farnham clarified it is 20 percent of their UI contribution, not their actual wage.

Mr. Bell had a slide of the WIB budget. He stated they have a span of three years to spend any given year's grant money, but of course try to spend the first year's grant money first, and so on. He stated there is still some carry forward, but it is less and less. He directed the board to Tab 10 in their binders, stating these are the grants that have been awarded by the Division of Business Partnership to date.

Guy fielded questions from the Board and concluded his presentation.

Committee Updates

Chair Baker moved on the agenda to committee updates. Rose Ellis is the acting chair of the Employment and Placement Committee, Neal Foster is the chair of the Legislative Committee.

David Stone inquired of the board as to what to do next with the regional advisory council's draft manual. Mr. Cattanach inquired as to what type of support the AWIB should give to the regional councils, and asked the Policy & Planning Committee to address that, and recommended the regional councils have a strong linkage back to the AWIB and they not create a mission of their own.

Colleen Ward stated that the Workforce Readiness Committee met on November 2nd. She stated the two sub-groups listed in her report have met within the last day and a half and are making good progress.

John Pratt stated the Assessment & Evaluation Committee is taking a closer look at customer satisfaction surveys and how the questions were developed and whether they can be changed. He also stated that they might want to request that TVEP grantees voluntarily report on performance. Katherine Farnham suggested looking at the new regulations as the reporting might not be so voluntary and would actually be a requirement.

Mona McAleese stated there were no updates to the youth council. Chair Baker suggested some of the new members of the Board join some of the committees, and that Mona McAleese will provide information explaining the committees and where their help is needed.

Staff Updates

Chair Baker moved forward in the agenda to staff updates. Mona McAleese stated that they have not received direction from the Federal Government on the Unified Plan for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act, so that has not been implemented.

Due to a lack of funding, the Clearinghouse is on hold.

Chris Allridge told the Board the Power Point presentation has just been completed for the marketing tools and will be sent back to the marketing team for review, and the Board should be receiving something within the next two to three weeks.

Mona McAleese stated nothing has happened with the Northwest Pilot, if anyone has any questions on that please let her know.

Regional Councils

Patti discussed a meeting with Michael Black and Midge Clouse where they discussed how to make regional councils act more efficiently. She explained to the Board they have a mapping project, and what they're trying to do is link up the entities within each region so that funding and work and workforce development information and economic development information all flows through the same stream so everybody's not doing the same thing.

Lt. Governor Leman reminded the group that under legislation passed in January by Congress, the Denali Commission federal co-chairman is responsible for naming an economic development committee. Lt. Governor Leman was charged with naming a regional advisory committee, and that effort is on hold right now at the direction of Congress.

David Stone requested the membership please move quickly on this because they already have established a number of regional advisory councils and they don't want to leave them hanging.

MOU with Native organizations

Mona McAleese addressed the MOU with Native organizations. She asked the Board to look at where they stand with the MOU that was in existence – whether it is still in existence or technically not – and how it is with the AWIB versus where it was with the Balance of State LWIB. Rose Ellis stated that she did not believe there was an MOU in place with the regional non-profits, but that there needs to be. Mona stated there was an agreement between the One-Stops and CITC, but no MOU as of yet. One of the Federal review findings stated they did not have an MOU and there needed to be one. Chair Baker referred this issue to Employment and Placement to figure out and report back to the Board.

Other Business

Mona McAleese stated the next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2005 in Juneau.

Chair Baker asked for an update at the next meeting with regard to the Youth Opportunity Grant and future funding and any ways the AWIB can help. M.J. Longley said she could provide the information.

Colleen Ward requested time to be scheduled into the agenda while in Juneau to visit legislators.

Chair Baker moved to adjourn the meeting.