

WETA Board Meeting
Dane County Job Center-Madison
February 27, 2008

Members Present: Arrionne Beecroft, Art Beese, Carol Burgett, Jon Danforth, Marlene Duffield, Jim Erlenborn, Robert Evans, Roger Gantzarow, Pat Langreck, Mary Ratz, O.J. Repins, Angel Rivera, David Skattum, Monica Snittler, Tony Veeder, and Joy Wiggert

Members Absent: Pat Delmenhorst

Check-In

Meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. All members were present except for one.

Approval of Minutes

The president- asked if there were any changes to the January minutes from the last meeting. Joy Wiggert noted there were two errors in members present at the last meeting that needed to be corrected. The president asked for approval of the minutes noting that the errors will be corrected. Motion to accept by Arrionne Beecroft and seconded by Tony Veeder. No other discussion. All board members approved.

The president-elect handed out a copy of the final WETA Board Roster for 2007-2008. The WETA Board Roster will be posted on the WETA website.

DCF Presentation (Jane Penner-Hoppe)

A brief presentation was provided by Jane Penner-Hoppe about the newly created Department of Children and Family Services that officially starts on July 1, 2008. The Secretary of the department is Reggie Bicha who has an extensive background. Ms. Penner-Hoppe works on the transition team to alert the public of the newly created department and of any changes. The goal of the new department is to protect children and build families. It integrates about thirty programs from the Department of Health and Family Services and the Department of Workforce Development. It is hoped that by the creation of this new department families will be stronger and children safer. The Department of Health and Family Services will now become the Department of Health Services.

Ms. Penner-Hoppe asked board members for their feedback to some questions which will be presented to the transition team. Jim Erlenborn asked about the initiative he currently is working on and wondered if it shouldn't be included in the new department. Ms. Penner-Hoppe thought it would fall under its umbrella.

The following are the questions Ms. Penner-Hoppe asked:

1. What is working well and what are family strengths?

Tony Veeder mentioned to Ms. Penner-Hoppe that board members are employment and training people. Tony thought they could work with ECI on Home Visitation and help family members with all aspects of employment.

Jim Erlenborn asked how this concept goes to the upper level funding sources. Ms. Penner-Hoppe mentioned the identification and replication of best services. Marlene Duffield questioned whether the recommended name change to Department of Family Resources from the Governor's Advisory Group has happened? Ms. Penner-Hoppe thought the name would remain the Department of Health and Children Services since it was passed through the budget with that name.

2. What do you see as an opportunity for change in the new department?

Jim Erlenborn indicated that through the consolidation of the two departments it focuses on who it identifies rather than addresses. He thought TANF (W-2) will play a larger role since the department is aimed at children, youth, and families rather than employment.

Art Beese added he would like to see an emphasis on children of offenders. Currently there are only two programs available that are non-profit. The kids of offenders need money for transportation so they can see their parent(s). The two agencies currently are Family Connections in Madison and the other St. Rose in Milwaukee but currently only serve woman and children.

Tony Veeder thought this would be a good opportunity to pursue the one-stop concept for children and family services. David Skattum said people need to have access to computers and be able to operate them. There are many people who lack computer knowledge. Mary Ratz mentioned there is a huge gap working with the same client. She would like to see that the Department of Corrections be included in the planning process since we may serve the same family. Ms. Penner-Hoppe said they are learning from the Milwaukee Integration Program that included the Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Family Services, and the Department of Workforce Development. Marlene interjected that there are many working poor families.

Ms. Penner-Hoppe said there are libraries that have several computers available. Joy Wiggert indicated they are time-limited and you need to be able to operate a computer.

3. In our view, what are protective strategies for families?

Jim Erlenborn indicated he is working on the Early Childhood Initiative in Dane County. There is a component of home visitation. Ms. Penne-Hoppe agreed and said they need to work to detangle the funding streams

(Did a round of board member introductions since it wasn't done before her presentation.)

Art Beese explained what the WETA organization is and the partnerships that exist with the Older Worker Network and the International Association of Workforce Professionals. Art asked to request an idea. He would like to see the movement of seventeen year olds back to the juvenile correction system rather than putting them into the adult system.

4. Strategies

Tony Veeder suggested an emphasis on collaborative case management. Angel Rivera added more in family structure, issues in financial planning, employment, health insurance sources, and immigration issues.

Ms. Penne-Heppe thanked the board and concluded by saying this is a historic opportunity for kids and families.

Financial Update (Mary)

Mary indicated there is \$8,695.30 in the checking account and \$14,453.72 in the money market account. There are two bills needing to be paid—Officers and Liability Insurance-\$930.00 and pay for post office box-\$270.00. Arrionne asked for a motion to approve the payment of the two invoices. Motion to approve by Marlene Duffield and seconded by Roger Gantzarow. Mary said all money has been received for last year's conference. She will cut a check for \$1,575.00 to the Wisconsin's Older Worker Network and mail. Motion to approve by Marlene Duffield and seconded by Roger Gantzarow.

Mini-Conference Update (Roger)

Roger provided board members with copies of the mini-conference schedule sponsored by WETA. The location of the mini-conferences will be held at technical colleges where there are no charges. The locations are Pewaukee, Eau Claire, Wausau, and Madison. Roger indicated they are waiting to see where DOC is at since they have frozen training dollars. He wasn't sure where we stand in all of this. Mary Ratz indicated that DOC has frozen all training and it will be tight until June 30, 2008. She recommended moving the training ahead to July since DOC will not be sending anyone to any training. There currently are fifteen people that could attend but because of the freeze cannot. DOC is committed to this training and would like to see this continue on but not until the next fiscal year starts.

Art Beese mentioned that the training cannot be done if DOC isn't there. Holding off until July is questionable and he wondered what would happen if they decided then they still couldn't do it.

(Sidebar: Roger Gantzarow is retiring from the Department of Workforce Development April 4, 2008. The minutes reflect he will still assist with the mini-conference. Marlene wondered if WETA could contract with Roger? Roger indicated he wants to remain active in WETA.)

Roger Gantzarow figured that if the dates changed he would have to check with the technical colleges for availability of other dates. Art Beese suggested we start with July and August dates. Roger wondered if Sylvia Jackson would be available for any of these trainings. Art indicated the Deputy Division Administrator is behind each of these trainings. He also has been in contact with John Clooney who retired recently and his availability is questionable. Art said both John Clooney and himself want to do these trainings.

David Skattum asked if there can be one free session. Monica Snittler suggested presenting these trainings to the CESAs since she found out that they have an interest. Arrionne Beecroft asked if an adult corrections be done for WETA. All members approved.

The flyer needs to be changed and sent by April 8, 2008 for the first mini-conference held in Pewaukee. All board members approved. This mini-conference will not offer a lunch. The registration fee will remain at \$149 for six hours of training. Snacks will be provided. Roger Gantzarow will get the new dates for July and August.

Monica Snittler suggested it might help if an At-Risk Youth Training were provided at the October conference as a Pre-Intensive and include CESA's statewide. The board agreed and approved.

Roger Gantzarow will get the four dates. Monica Snittler and Art Beese will work together to coordinate CESA representation at the Pre-Intensive for the October conference.

Strategic Plan (Arrionne/Art)

Arrionne Beecroft distributed a copy of four basic plans provided by Art Beese. Board members reviewed and Arrionne opened for discussion.

Joy Wiggert wanted to know if there is a copy of the last strategic plan since she didn't have a copy. Art mentioned that Carol Burgett sent copies January 2006 to members. Since that time there have been three new members added. Jon Danforth said he would get copies to Monica Snittler, Pat Langreck, and Joy Wiggert.

Pat Langreck indicated that she spoke with Dick Best at the last Workforce Development Board meeting and wanted to know why they don't attend WETA Conferences. Pat asked Dick if he would be interested in participating in being interviewed and he was. Pat mentioned that she liked Alternative Two.

Arrionne Beecroft said she would like to do all four. She thought WETA needs to identify ways to attract more people from all over and make sure we're in good shape in a couple of years from now. Jon Danforth questioned whether Alternative 2 would happen before Alternative 3. Art Beese said yes. Art went on to say WETA has done a good job in defining our mission, goals and objectives but we lack in action steps. Action steps are important to show that the organization is on track. Right now WETA doesn't do much through committees which most organizations have.

Pat Langreck and Monica Snittler spoke about the Older Worker Network structure and experiences with committees. Tony Veeder envisions a timeline. Art thought WETA should take all three steps but would need to decide who would be interviewed. He thought it would take a couple of weeks to complete the interview. Art went on to describe the steps in the process. Tony Veeder wanted to have this done by the conference in October so suggested we begin in the next two months. Art agreed that it shouldn't be put off and we do need input. Tony wanted someone from DOC to be interviewed. Arrionne Beecroft interjected that we need to decide what we want now. A motion was made by Tony Veeder to accept all four. It was seconded by Joy Wiggert.

Arrionne asked that members email her a list of names to be interviewed and why. She will prioritize and decide. Bob Evans said it's important to make sure there is a geographic balance. **Interviewee names must be sent to Arrionne by noon on Friday, March 7, 2008.** Arrionne will compile the list and send to Art the following week.

Pat Langreck asked whether the interview will include questions. Art indicated it would and that there would be at least 3-4 questions.

Arrionne Beecroft thought the first meeting strategic plan meeting will be scheduled after the interviews are completed. **A tentative date was set for April 23, 2008.**

2008 Annual Conference (Arrionne)

Arrionne Beecroft began by saying the board needed to select a conference theme. There were several offered by Angel Rivera, David Skattum, Monica Snittler, Joy Wiggert, and Tony Veeder.

The selected and approved conference theme will be: *"Wisconsin at a Crossroad: Thinking Outside the Box."*

Arrionne indicated there will be a youth corrections for the conference pre-intensive on Wednesday and that Mary Ratz and Art Beese are the presenters. The pre-intensive will be sponsored by WETA, OWN, and IAWP.

(Marlene Duffield left early but wanted board member to know that Jim Golembeski will do the opening at the conference (Thursday morning). She asked about Kohler Co. but was told that might be impossible. Marlene indicated she has received two other recommendations and is following up on those.)

Tony Veeder suggested Jennifer Alexander as a possible presenter. Joy Wiggert read from an article she received about a woman named Zenja Glass who was originally from Milwaukee. Ms. Glass wrote a book titled, *"25 Reasons Why I Won't Hire You."* Her website is www.25reasonswhy.com.

Mary Ratz thought we might consider Leo Culver, owner of Culver's Restaurants who resides in Sauk City. Other suggestions from board members for a keynoter was Ed Duda, and a woman named Margaret ?

Arrionne asked the board to look at people we know and send her a list of keynoters by the next meeting.

Jon Danforth mentioned we should have a workshop for DVR.

Next Meeting and Adjournment (Arrionne)

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at the Dane County Job Center, Aberg Avenue, Madison. The meeting time is 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The meeting agenda should reflect conference keynoters and conference workshops.

Jon Danforth thanked for board for the card, flowers and donation given to his family when his father passed away.

Motion to adjourn by Arrionne Beecroft. Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Snittler, Secretary