



Meeting Minutes – Workforce Working Group

Date: March 27, 2018

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Prior Lake Fire Station

Work Group Members:

Kirt Briggs (E)	X	Mickey Choudek	X	Bob Crawford (T)	X
Bob Coughlen	X	James Eriksrud (H)	X	Josh Johnson (T)	
Darren Kermes	X	Patti Sotis		Jamie Thelen	
Kami Thompson (E)		Bethany Tjornhom	X	Jon Ulrich (T)	X
Joe Vaughan		Jane Wiley (T)	X	Mike Waldo (H)	
Eric Weiss	X				

Staff Members:

Tracy Cervenka	X	Brad Davis		Lisa Freese (T)	X
Jake Grussing	X	Brad Larson (T)		Kathy Nielsen	X
Barb Dahl (W)		Jennifer Schultz	X	Stacy Crakes	X

Agenda Item 1: IZI Updates

Jennifer Schultz reported on the March 3 Educational Preparedness IZI, stating that the number of people in attendance was less than what they had hoped for. Of the 65 people in attendance, about half were systems people, rather than true citizens. The conversations held were good; though much was focused on elementary ages and older. The Report will be posted once it is finalized. Feedback they heard was that language, transportation, and housing were all barriers. Kathy Nielsen added that while the discussion was different than the group thought it would be, the deep value is the relationships being built through this process. We need to find a way to continue pursuing these relationships and community leadership to bring about changes they need.

Feedback from other Steering Committee members was that parents with younger than school aged children have a difficult time finding time to attend any event; the conversations held were authentic and important for a broader understanding; and skepticism due to attendance. Kathy noted that Marnita’s Table will present a final report of all three IZI’s to the larger group. She asked about looking for grant funding to find ways to incorporate the community into our long-term discussions.

James Eriksrud reported on the March 20 Housing IZI. The attendance was good, and they feel the community gave their perception of what affordable housing is to them and what the barriers are. Feedback from those in attendance was that the themes centered on challenges, stable and secure housing, stressors in housing impact to child development, and the value of the conversations held. Kirt Briggs noted that the deliverable from the IZIs was different than he thought, but that does not take away from the value. Jon Ulrich asked if there is a way for us to be trained on how to do this well to help us create a foundation for a more inclusive community and achieving our goals.

Kathy Nielsen noted the Workforce Readiness IZI will be held on April 10th at Aspen Academy in Prior Lake.

Agenda Item 2: Work Group Updates

Stacy Crakes noted the upcoming joint meeting of Workforce Readiness, Transportation, and Housing on April 18 where Morris Letherman will review the data from the Employer Survey. The Workforce Readiness Work Group is also working with MnCAPs on ideas for a potential website to advertise available jobs in Scott County. The group is doing outreach to determine interest of people in this type of site. They are also preparing for the April 10th IZI.

Bob Crawford advised that the Transportation Work Group discussed car repair and purchasing programs in the area and are gather additional information to see about any future action related to that. They are working with the U of M on a study of 16-24 year olds regarding transportation to work.

Agenda Item 3: JobsEQ Software Update:

The SCALE Executive Committee did approve going forward with the JobsEQ Software. Stacy Crakes is working on the contract which will be entered into by Scott County. Users will be Stacy Crakes, Jo Foust, Barb Dahl, and Troy Pint.

Other Items:

- The Roadmap was distributed showing the updates made based on discussion at the February meeting.
- The Project Team is preparing a program matrix that will help us understand what currently exists. Kathy Nielsen distributed a sample of the matrix, focused on the Transportation programs. Bob Coughlen suggested the addition of a miscellaneous column.
- Jake Grussing asked this group to be cognizant that this initiative is long-term and asked this group to not focus on what we get for our money TODAY.
- Kathy Nielsen announced that she will be leaving the project effective April 18.
- Mickey Choudek announced that she will be leaving the project effective April 30.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

