



**Meeting Minutes – Workforce Working Group**

Date: August 8, 2017

Time: 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Prior Lake City Hall – Parkview Conference

**Work Group Members:**

Michelle Choudek (Chair)		Lee Foley		Nick Slavik	<b>X</b>
Darren Kermes (Chair)		Madelyn Hertaus	<b>X</b>	Patricia Timmons	<b>X</b>
Mike Beard		Kellie McElroy Hooper		Tim Wynes	<b>X</b>
John Bezek		Brenda Lieske			
Heather Fitzloff		Kathryn Reeder	<b>X</b>		

**Staff Members:**

Stacy Crakes	<b>X</b>	Mark Jacobs		Jean Sinell	
Barb Dahl	<b>X</b>	Tim O’Neill	<b>X</b>	Jo Foust	

**Guests:**

Melanie Smieja		Kathy Nielsen	<b>X</b>		
Bob Coughlen	<b>X</b>				

**Agenda Item 1: General Updates**

Barb Dahl provided an update on the status of the Employer survey. The sub-committee working on the Employer survey was directed to reach out to chambers in order to try and connect with businesses, as well as reach out to the EDA/EDAC groups within each city. The group may look at engaging an outside consultant/group to help conduct the surveys.

Presentations on each of the 50 by 30 working groups are planned for SCALE. In August the Educational Preparedness group has invited Art Rolnick to present on the need to focus on investing in early education. Mr. Rolnick is a former head researcher and economist for the Federal Reserve.

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Kathy Nielsen provided updates on the other work groups:

Housing – made a decision in June to focus on rental properties and what kind of policies cities are developing with respect to zoning or specific housing policies for rentals. There was discussion on whether or not to actively seek developers for rental properties. They are also developing fact sheets for different types/levels of housing. In July a number of city planners came to the meeting to talk about their Comprehensive Plan progress to date. The housing group discussed SCALE advocacy around housing and a fall legislative agenda that may include:

- 1) Funding 1<sup>st</sup> time home buyer assistance programs
- 2) Funding low cost rental improvement loans
- 3) Modifying the unit size requirements on workforce housing bringing them in line with what the market is seeing for other market rate apartments

Educational Preparedness – the group had a legislative update by Claire Robling. Ed Prep is focusing on birth to age 5. They are partnering with Dakota County to identify and screen kids earlier. There was \$200K funding at the last legislative session to put toward IT/a new system to better track/share data. The group is discussing how to put systems in place to identify kids not being screened earlier.

Steering Committee – moving forward with community engagement focusing on families receiving food support. See Agenda Item 3 below.

#### **Agenda Item 2: 50 by 30 Shared Measures Dashboard**

Items that were discussed related to the shared measures dashboard include:

- 1) % Labor Force Aged 16-24 at 68.4% - the header needs to be revised for statement accuracy
- 2) % without diploma/GED
- 3) Jobs in the county that don't require higher education
- 4) Jobs that are paying livable wage – skills gap document showing difference between resident workers and county jobs
- 5) Housing – possibly put fair market rent on the dashboard

#### **Agenda Item 3: Community Engagement Action Plan**

Need to define the scope and identify who are the community leaders to connect with and what are we trying to achieve. Also considering an outside consultant to help and understand the process better. Community engagement events will likely happen around January/February 2018. Potential areas of focus include:

- 1) Integration barriers
- 2) Awareness of opportunities and resources in the county
- 3) Find out what is working well
- 4) Metro mobility group

#### **Agenda Item 4: Transportation**

The group was asked whether or not they felt it would be beneficial to bring the Transportation and Workforce Readiness groups together for a joint meeting, which the group agreed was a good idea.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Program Revenue for Scott County Workforce Development related programs**

A list of resources/programs was shared with the group. Discussion about things to add to the list included:

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- 1) Churches – job placement and job training services
- 2) Families Moving Forward
- 3) CAP Agency?
- 4) MRCI
- 5) Rotary involvement with job placement

Also talked about the Get Jobs Job Fair and the Scott County Job Fair. For the last two years DEED has organized and managed the Scott County Job Fair. Due to DEED staff changes they can no longer support a job fair like that here in Scott County. There was discussion among the group about whether or not a once a year job fair like the one done in the past was worthwhile to try and continue. The group tended to shift toward targeted job fairs rather than the one large job fair, including marketing at the State Fair and the Scott County Fair (2018 potentially) as well as targeted job fairs in schools.