

Minutes



Employment / Economic Opportunities Committee

Thursday, February 16th 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

John O. Pastore Center (Formerly the Howard Center)

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Secretary:

Christine Rancourt

Attendees:

Vicki Ferrara (Chair); Rosemary Carmody; Bill Nieranowski; Patricia Ryherd; Paul Harden, Kathy Partington, Judith Drew, Dimity Peter, Sol Rodriguez

Excused:

Monica Dzailo; Arthur Plitt; Scott Greco

Minutes

9:30 AM

Call to Order

Victoria Ferrara, Chair.

Welcome and Self-introductions.

Discussion: Reviewed Employment/Economic Opportunities Committee Purpose: Is responsible for overseeing implementation of the Human Resource Investment Council's Promoting Work Grant and the provision of training and technical assistance regarding the employment provisions of the ADA. Ad-hoc committees will be created as needed.

Received and reviewed summary recommendations from 04 Employment Testimony Workgroup.

Outcomes/Decisions:

1. Employment Testimony will be considered when outlining Able Too... programming and Employment outreach activities.
2. Recommendation regarding Case Management TBI referred to Legislative Committee.
3. Employer Representation on GCD will be referred to the Executive/Personnel Committee.

Staff:

Requested to gather contact information via e-mail and create member list for March meeting.

9:30 AM Overview of Employment Related Grants Chris Rancourt

Discussion: Received and reviewed original information sent with committee invitation regarding HRIC and NE ADA Accessible IT Grant (e-mail from Bob Cooper).

1. Also received HRIC and ADA grant quarterly summaries.
2. Discussed the Able Too cable show audience is people with disabilities as well as the general public. The purpose of the show is to communicate and demonstrate what people with disabilities can do and what resources are available to people with disabilities. Concerns about the program discussed include the nature and size of viewing audience and the lack of publicity about the show. Briefly discussed possible solution to these issues through a RTI (Rhodes to Independence) offer. RTI memo describing the assistance needed was drafted by Chris after several discussions with the Director of RTI. Draft was shared with the committee but not appropriate for general distribution (given the draft nature of the document). Also discussed was the need for the current status of Able Too ... e.g. footage not yet used and assess grant obligations before future program topics are chosen and shows produced. Current barrier to having this work done is the lack of an intern this year to help with this project.
3. NE ADA grant objectives seemed straight forward.
4. Questions about HRIC grant objectives.
5. Questions remain about NE ADA Grant, HRIC Grant and RTI Grant funding amounts, staff and/or products-material deadlines and accomplishments to date (is the GCD meeting the obligations in the grants, if not what is outstanding and what is the plan to meet the obligations.)
6. Disability Elderly Resource center moving forward. Emphasis is on Elderly Resources, Chris offered her resource list and will further explore if this list is wanted at this time.
7. Goal is to move forward in a strategic way and continue the GCD belief to not recreate the wheel and build on existing opportunities.

Staff:

Will provide committee with copies of original grants prior to next meeting.

Will provide specifics on grant objectives, including funding amounts, staff and/or products-material deadlines and accomplishments to date (is the GCD meeting the obligations in the grants, if not what is outstanding and what is the plan to meet the obligations.)

10:00 AM	Employment Related Policy Issues	Victoria Ferrara
Discussion: First priority is to ensure grant obligations are met. Policy issues will be explored as part of that as needed.		
10:20 AM	Other Business	Victoria Ferrara
Discussion: Election of a Vice Chairperson		
MOTION: Motion passed to elected Judith Drew as Vice-Chair- who also becomes a member of the Executive Committee		
Discussion: Employment / Economic Opportunities Committee 2005 schedule distributed: March 31, May 26, July 28, September 29 and November 17 @ GCD.		
Staff: Will forward meeting reminder and agenda for meeting on March 31 st .		
Discussion: Agenda 3/31 - Review Summary grant deliverables for the purpose of a strategic plan.		
Resource Person:	Chris Rancourt	
Adjournment at:	10:30 AM	