

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Minutes of Meeting  
July 26, 2011  
Kenosha County Administration Building

Committee Members Present: Doug Noble, Jeff Gentz, Terry Rose, Ed Kubicki, David Celebre, Kate Gerou (YIG)

Committee Members Absent: David Arrington, Erin Decker (both excused), Chris Chae (YIG)

Staff Present: John Milisauskas, Barb Welch

Others Present: Lou Molitor, Dr. Deborah Ford, Gary Vaillancourt

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Doug Noble.

2. Citizen's Comments - None

3. Approval of Minutes - 6/28/11

MOTION to approve minutes by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Ed Kubicki. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Resolutions to Approve County Executive Appointments to the Workforce Development Board:

Dr. Deborah Ford -

Deborah Ford stated that she serves on other economic and workforce development types of boards. She has an interest in understanding the community's needs and this helps her to understand the region and what the university can do to help.

MOTION to approve by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Ed Kubicki. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Lou Molitor

Mr. Molitor said that he is a lifelong Kenosha resident and has been with the Kenosha Chamber for 3 years, although he has been in the chamber business for a number of years. With 650 members, the Chamber needs to be involved in all aspects of economic development in Kenosha. He can bring some of the business insight to this WDB. We haven't seen economic recovery yet in this region.

MOTION to approve by Ed Kubicki, seconded by Terry Rose. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Gary Vaillancourt

Mr. Vaillancourt stated that he has been the Chief Communication Officer for KUSD for about 18 months. He has worked in both Racine and Kenosha in both the public and private sector, and has a really good background pertaining to preparing people for the workforce. KUSD's role is critical in preparing students for jobs. He believes KUSD is making progress to better educate their students.

MOTION to approve by Terry Rose, seconded by Jeff Gentz. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ed Kubicki thanked each appointee individually for volunteering and taking time out of their busy schedules to be members of this board. Jeff Gentz concurred, commenting that "this Board is stacked".

5. KCJC Business Services Team and Job Fairs

Barb Welch introduced herself as the Supervisor of Business Services for Kenosha County which is located at the Job Center. She distributed an evaluation packet on the last Job Fair held on 7/20/11 at the County Center. They typically hold 4 job fairs a year - in February, May, June or July, and October. The 7/20/11 Job Fair was a partnership with Racine & Walworth Counties and the Veterans. There is parking and plenty of space for the employer booths at the County Center. They had 57 employers in attendance last week and 410 job seekers (of which 62 were Vets). This was the lowest turnout of job seekers in Ms. Welch's 10 years on this Business Services team. Last year's event, held at the same time of year, and also held with the Vets, had 800 people in attendance. Possible reasons for the low turnout this year include: the heat, or confusion because the Vets advertised it heavily as a 'Veterans' Job Fair and some people may have thought it was 'only' for Veterans. The Job Center of Wisconsin also put out an e-mail blast to 2,000 job seekers about this job fair. The normal turnout is 700 - 850 job seekers. Of the 410 job seekers, only 164 filled out this survey. Most employers are looking at an older and more educated population. 44% of the job seekers have been looking for work for more than 7 months. Unfortunately, employers are not looking favorably on those who have been unemployed more than 6 months.

A large segment of our job seeker population is unprepared in the skills and appearance categories. At this job fair, they placed 2 mannequins at the entrance, dressed with clothing from Goodwill, with price tags totaling under \$45 each still on them. This was to get the message out that it doesn't cost a lot to dress for a job.

Kate Gerou commented that it's hard for youth to find jobs and suggested holding a job fair for teens. Jeff Gentz agreed and also suggested holding a class to tell kids how to dress for interviews. Ms. Welch explained that many of the fast food businesses are hiring unemployed and retired adults, instead of teens. There are workshops held at the Job Center on completing resumes, looking for jobs, and preparing the job seekers for the workplace. She added that Youth Job Fairs were held in 2009 and 2010 in partnership with KUSD.

Ms. Gerou stated that teens know how to apply on-line for jobs. Going to the Job Center doesn't help them find a job. Ms. Welch responded that it's a difficult economy and there's a lot of competition.

A shuttle bus between the Job Center and County Center was provided, and there were 65 riders (of the 164 who completed the survey). Mr. Rose stated that Kenosha has a very poor transportation system. This number of riders is an indication of the inability of people to get to jobs.

Doug Noble stated that Gateway should have a "Customer Service" associate degree and it doesn't.

Ms. Welch said that they held a forum with employers and they stated that many job seekers coming into the workforce are lacking in the following areas: speaking English, reading English, writing English, attendance, and work skills.

Ms. Gerou stated that more effort should be put into matching the job seekers with employers and jobs. Ms. Welch replied that there are no easy answers. They do the best they can to connect job seekers and employers. Job seekers post their resumes on the Resume Matrix, where employers can access them. There were over 600 positions being sought at this last job fair. Employers do find job fairs valuable.

Ms. Welch distributed a flyer of services provided by Business Services. Doug Noble suggested that Ms. Welch make a presentation at an annual KABA/Chamber of Commerce meeting to let employers know that these services are available.

#### 6. Job Openings in Demand in SE WI

John Milisaukas, Job Center Manager, stated that as of 2009, 60.5% of the people living in Kenosha County work elsewhere, with the majority of them working in Lake County, Illinois. In 2003, it was 44%. This is a big jump. Breaking it down, there are 47,000 working elsewhere, 29,000 working in Kenosha County, and 22,000 are coming to Kenosha to work. Mr. Milisaukas distributed an occupational listing as of 7/25/11. This listing compares the positions available in SE Wisconsin to Kenosha County. In SE Wisconsin, the #1 listing is 'Management' and the #2 listing is 'Healthcare Practitioners and Technical'. Kenosha County is just the opposite - those 2 listings are flip-flopped. #3 in Kenosha is 'Sales & Related', #4 is Computer and Mathematical' and #5 is 'Office & Administrative Support', for a total of 266 listings in all 5 categories. Total for all 5 categories in SE Wisconsin is 3,700 job listings. There are 8,300 people "un"-employed in Kenosha County. Plus, 2-3 times that number are "under"-employed, and are taking the jobs that youth would have had. We don't have enough jobs. Many of the laid-off workforce don't have the skills that are in demand now.

Doug Noble suggested getting together with Gateway to offer degrees for the jobs in demand. Mr. Milisaukas replied that we do pass this information on to Gateway, and their deans are also part of our committee. Mr. Noble asked that Mr. Milisaukas mention that the Chair of the Human Services Committee has a concern that they are not creating degrees for these jobs. Mr. Noble added that the consultant for the Brookside Project projected a huge shortage of nurses in the near future. Mr. Milisaukas stated that the clinical sites are limited in Kenosha for the nursing program at Gateway, which is a problem. Nurses can't finish their clinical and therefore can't get their degrees.

Mr. Milisaukas predicted that it will be a slow process to bring jobs back to Kenosha, much less good-paying jobs. 82% of employers in Kenosha County have fewer than 20 employees. The medium and large-size companies are located in Lake County and they pay higher wages.

Barb Welch added that there is a huge demand for welders at Bucyrus-Erie in South Milwaukee.

7. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law - None

8. Committee Members Comments

Doug Noble mentioned a letter he received regarding fraud in the Food Share Program. Sharon Davis said she would have Adelene Greene, Director of the Division of Workforce Development, contact him about this issue.

9. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Terry Rose. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis  
KCDHS Secretary

F:Sharon/HSCmin 7-26-11