



SELECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Private Industry Council
Youth Services Building - Room 116
2342 N. 27th Street - Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210

Thursday, October 20, 2005
1:30 P.M.

- In Attendance:** Richard Abelson (Chair), Lyle Balistreri, B.G. Robert Cocroft, Enid Glenn, Sheila Knox, Lupe Martinez, Jeannetta Robinson, Leonila Vega
- Staff Present:** Delores Graves, Mark Kessenich, Tonya Powell, Amy Pringle, Paul Wechter, Sue Wile
- Excused:** Dan Davis, Vince Martin, Carol Sample, Charles Vang
- Guests:** Hector Lerma - UMOS, Theresa Loerke - DWD, Jerry Miksch - UMOS, Rita Renner - Making Connections Milwaukee, Bruce Wantrich - Making Connections Milwaukee, Ginny Wilke - WRTP

MINUTES (Pending Committee Approval)

Mr. Abelson called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. with introductions of the Committee.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve September 15, 2005 Minutes

Lupe Martinez

Second

Sheila Knox

Motion carried unanimously

II. Update on Transportation Vendors

The PIC Employer Services Group sent a letter to board members expressing appreciation for their participation in the evaluation process of the WETAP contract recommendations on Thursday, September 15, 2005. The PIC's WETAP program will be able to continue to provide reliable and affordable transportation services to approximately 130 current clients and maintain partnerships with several private sector employers and business groups.

Due to reduced fundings, it was determined that merging all of the current employer-based routes with one vendor would enable the program to continue to deliver service to current program participants, accommodate some moderate service expansions, and become more cost effective.

Overall, the program efficiency and accountability would be significantly improved with a vendor whose main business operation is providing transportation services.

Per Board action, PIC extended request to Exact Transport, LLC to subcontract with MCC. Exact Transport declined the option of subcontracting with PIC WETAP as of September 19, 2005. PIC WETAP is then to move forward with the award letter process and execution of contracts effective October 1, 2005.

III. Customized Skills Training Proposal-W RTP

Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP) submitted a customized skills training proposal to train 12 Certified Nursing Assistants for a total of \$24,282.

Staff recommends funding this proposal contingent upon several issues. One of the contingencies, audit concerns and a management letter from 2004, have been reviewed by the PIC and found to not be an obstacle to funding. The others, however, still need to be addressed. These include: an explanation for the large increase in training costs; a revision of the employer/trainer contribution; and an explanation of how placement levels will be significantly improved over past placement performance for Certified Nursing Assistants.

Mr. Martinez noted that WRTP's past performance training in this occupation has been very poor and asked staff why they were recommending funding it at all. Staff indicated that since the Committee decided that only employer linked certified nursing assistant positions would be funded under WIA, this is the only proposal meeting that criteria that has been received. In addition, the training contract will be written with performance based payment benchmarks so that if graduates of the training do not become employed, 50% of the training cost will not be paid.

Motion to approve WRTP Customized Skills Training Proposal for \$24,282, pending removal of conditions

Leonila Vega

Second

Sheila Knox

Recusal

Lyle Balistreri

Motion carried

IV. ITA Monetary Caps

Staff explained the current ITA monetary limits within the WIA program. A committee member had directed staff to investigate the possibility of raising the monetary limit and staff followed that directive.

Two other Wisconsin Workforce Development Boards were contacted to determine their local policy on ITA monetary limits. The WOW Workforce Development Board's policy limits are: \$1,500 for trainings less than one year in duration and \$4,000 for trainings 1-2 years long. No exceptions are made to these limits. If training exceeds the limit, the participant covers the monetary difference themselves. The Workforce Development Board in Dane County has no lifetime ITA limit. Participants can access a maximum of \$3,000 per year with no limit on the number of years of training.

Staff discussed with the Committee the following considerations regarding changing the monetary cap:

- The reduction in total funds available under WIA.
- The reduction in the total numbers of participants that can be served under WIA.
- The current numbers of participants reaching the monetary cap.
- The anticipated number of participants who would reach the monetary cap if it were increased.
- The cost of training programs most often accessed from the ITA listing.
- Financial aid from non-WIA sources available to WIA participants.
- Our capacity to capture relevant data.

When reviewing the dislocated worker ITA vouchers for 7/1/04-6/30/05, of 951 workers receiving training vouchers, 16 hit the \$5,000 limit. During that same time period, of 412 WIA adults receiving training vouchers, approximately 10 reached the limit.

Sheila Knox said the reason she is interested in this policy change is because the cost of longer term trainings have gone up in the last several years, while the policy limit has remained the same.

Discussion lead to an agreement that if the policy is altered, the change would apply to both the WIA adult and WIA dislocated customers.

Mr. Abelson asked that further discussion be held at the November meeting and that staff prepare a recommendation for the Committee to consider.

V. WIA Adult & LEP Update

The Private Industry Council issued two Request for Proposals on September 22, 2005. One is to provide Case Management, Placement & Retention Services for WIA Adults and the other is to provide these same services to WIA customers with Limited English Proficiency. Four technical assistance sessions were held in September. Proposals are due to the PIC on October 20, 2005. An evaluation team will review the proposals the first week in November. The Selection Committee will make funding decisions at its November 17th meeting. Program Services will begin January 1, 2006.

VI. Making Connections Presentation

Rita Renner and Bruce Wantrich of Making Connections Milwaukee (MCM) gave a presentation of the Making Connection Milwaukee Workforce Development Systems Scan project. The Making Connections community is bounded by 24th Street to the east, Highland Blvd. to the south, 47th Street to the west, and Center Street to the north. The community consists of seven neighborhoods. The 2002 census found that 30,499 people live within the Making Connections Milwaukee, or 5.1 % of the city population of 596,974. These are 6,614 families in the neighborhood, which encompasses 1.85 square miles or 311 city blocks. The following items and statistics were given:

- Diversity Breakdown and Racial Change: There is a decrease in European Americans, an increase in Black Americans and minimal changes for other ethnic groups
- Families & Children Census: 43.7 % of the population is under 17, compared to 28.6% for the city of Milwaukee as a whole. In Walnut Hill and Washington Park, more than half the population is below age 18
- Income Gap: The average income median for the Making Connections community is \$21,139.00; for the City of Milwaukee, \$32,216.00; and \$47,175.00 for the county as a whole
- Families in Poverty: In the Making Connections community 39.9 % in comparison to city percentage of 17.4 %; children under five in poverty at 56.6 % in Making Connections community, and 33.9 % for the city.
- Unemployment Gap: 20.1% in comparison to the City rate of 6.9%
- Education Gap: Adults without High School diploma in the Making Connections community is 41.0 %, and for the City of Milwaukee is currently at 25%
- Funding in the Milwaukee County is just over \$500 millions in TANF and \$20 millions in CDBG for the city of Milwaukee for 2005. 8.8 millions went to community based organization and less than 10% went to the community based organizations in the Making Connections community
- Additional workforce development challenges in the Making Connections community are present because 41% of the adults lack a GED, and of the formerly incarcerated individuals, 50% are classified as unskilled laborers and 97% are assessed as at-risk for drug and alcohol related problems.

VII. Other Business

Mark Kessenich reported on the PIC's WIA Adult FY2005 budget versus expenses, as well as projections for FY 2006. There has been an overall reduction of nearly \$300,000 in the FY 2006 compared to FY 2005. Internal staff and overhead costs experienced an increase in FY 2006, due in part to the use of PIC staff during a six-month transition period after the closing of OIC.

Motion to Adjourn

Gen. Brig. Robert Cocroft

Second

Leonila Vega

Meeting ended at 2:45 pm