

**Ashland/Bayfield/Iron and Price Counties
Community Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes**

July 19, 2005

3:00 p.m.

WITC – Ashland Campus

Bayfield County Committee Members and Others Present: Ann Green, Elizabeth Skulan, Rosie Kozeneski, Karen Vlasaty, Betty Tarabek, Shirley Moran, Mary Stenberg and Neil Paulson

Ashland/Price County Committee Members and Others Present: Jolyne Franklin,

Iron County Committee Members: Diane Schmidtke, via IP video

Others in Attendance:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Elizabeth Skulan. Introductions were made.

Motion regarding minutes of January 18, 2005 meeting: Motion made by Tarabek and seconded by Franklin to accept the amended April 19, 2005 minutes. The last sentence under “CSC Members/Agency Updates” was changed to “The Farmer’s Market voucher program is **continuing** to provide fresh produce to Women, Infants and Children (WIC) participants.”

W-2 Agency Statistics: See Attachments #1, #2

FSET Participant Profiles: Kozeneski provided a general profile of the FSET participant, stating that the majority are men in their 40’s, females in their 30’s, and most have children. Transportation is the primary limitation faced by most participants; either they’re currently lacking a license or an operational vehicle. BART isn’t an option for many based on their location in the county.

Kozeneski also reports that many FSET participants have a long history job hopping, lack of soft skills, lack of skills for specific employment types, no high school diploma or GED, and poor motivation. AODA or mental health issues may also affect employability of many FSET participants. The Washburn Library and local animal shelters have provided work experience sites (non-paid ‘work practice’). FSET Case Managers review job listings with participants, will help with the application process and will advocate with the employer on the participant’s behalf.

Moran stated that NWCEP may arrange work experience and on-the-job training programs that allows the participant to demonstrate their employability. MMC, VHS Cleaning Service and D3 (Iron River) have been very receptive to FSET participant

placements. Moran will contact VHC, D3 and other employers with whom she works to assess their interest in participating on the CSC.

Stenberg reported that the WITC Ashland Campus is working with Nancy Brede of NWCEP to anticipate and develop education/training programs in the health care field. Funding and programming currently exist in which FSET participants may enroll.

RFP Issues – 2006-2007 W2 Contract Plan: There is a 15% reduction in the W2 allocation for the next contract period, 2006-2009. Ashland/Price, Bayfield and Iron Counties all earned the Right of First Selection for the 2006-2009 contract. Agencies are again encouraged to establish consortia.

This contract the W2 focus has shifted to moving participants into the workforce as quickly as possible. DWD will be monitoring program expenditures very closely. Bayfield and Iron Counties may discuss establishing a consortium.

FoodShare Report: See Attachment # 3

CSC Members/Agency Updates:

Moran stated that Jon Chara of NWCEP had resigned to accept a position in Kansas City.

Stenberg stated that enrollment in health care related classes has increased, but enrollment in business and machining programs has decreased. Mary Ross has been hired as a recruiter for WITC.

Tarabek of UW Extension-Ashland County gave an update on the Farmer's Market and the Dovetail housing program. The Dovetail housing program builds houses that use "green practices" to build affordable, energy efficient and ecologically friendly homes.

Green reported that the Ashland/Bayfield County Housing Taskforce has developed and funded a program that provides housing for homeless individuals for up to 72 hours, with the expectation that during that time the individual must work toward locating resources and housing. The Taskforce has also opened an Emergency Shelter program where individuals or families may live for up to 28 days if they meet program requirements. The Taskforce has also received a grant of \$333,000.00 from HUD to develop a transitional housing program in Ashland and Bayfield counties.

Jeanine Spuhler is the new Economic Support worker with Bayfield County and Shellie Heglund has left and Karen Vlasaty is now the new ES support staff worker.

IPV Demonstration: Diane Schmidtke of Iron County Human Services participated in this CSC meeting via IPV. However, she 'left' the meeting early due to technical issues with the Iron County IPV connection. It is hoped the technical problems will be resolved by the next meeting.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Next meeting date: October 25, 2005

Submitted by:

Karen Vlasaty, Clerk II
Bayfield County Human Services
Attachments: (3)