Eastern Area Workforce Development Board

CEO/Exec Committee Meeting Santa Fe, NM February 6, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Slade Morgan called the meeting to order at 1:40pm.

ROLL CALL

Mayor White stated that in lieu of roll call the sign-in sheet (Attachment #1) would be maintained as the official record of attendance. It was noted that a quorum was not present to conduct business and indicated the following:

CEOs Present: Phillip Burch (Mayor of Artesia), Jack Chosvig (Mayor of Clayton), Steve Henderson (City Councilor Roswell), Dave Venable (Village of Cloudcroft), Matt White (Mayor of Eunice), Gary Williams (Mayor of Ruidoso Downs)

Board Members Present: Sue Bracksieck, Judith Cooper, Terri Douglass, John Hemphill, Slade Morgan

AE/FA Staff Present: Charles Lehman, Tiffany Roth

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Attendee introductions were provided.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On a motion from D. Venable, and seconded by P. Burch the agenda was unanimously approved.

APPPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion from M. White, and seconded by P. Burch, the minutes from the June 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Morgan welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Chair Morgan asked the AE Director to report on the current state of the operations and status of the board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

C. Lehman provided a brief description of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to the attendees. There are four regional boards and the boards consist of public and private members. Members are nominated by local chamber of commerce or economic/business organizations and appointed by the Chief Elected Officials of the area. C. Lehman provided a brief overview of the One-Stop centers

and operations in the eastern area.

One-Stop Operations and the Adult/DW program

J. Hemphill reported to the board the staffing at each of the One-Stop centers. Since July 1, 2013 the One-Stops have placed over 400 job seekers and are currently managing over 250 open positions. J. Hemphill reported on a pilot program that the Clovis One-Stop is participating in that will partner with Clovis Community College called I-Best which will focus on basic skills with vocational skills at the college. Participants will earn their high school equivalency and skills certification concurrently. J. Hemphill reported on a soft-skills grant program that Wal-Mart is funding through the NMDWS that will help participants obtain entry level retail skills with the possibility to advance once employed. J. Hemphill reported on the installation of new resource room computers to be used by participants in job search, resume, and other related activities. These computers were installed in Roswell and Alamogordo and were paid by partner funds. Mayor Burch offered excess computers to the One-Stop centers and the IT specialist will follow-up. J. Hemphill also reported on the job profiling that will take place in Artesia. The job profiling is part of the WorkKeys system and will determine the job requirements for specific jobs and then link them to specific testing scores in the WorkKeys system so that applicants with the determined test score can be considered for the position. J. Hemphill reviewed the obligation report with the attendees. J. Cooper broached the lack of services in the Clayton area. Discussion ensued over expanding services in the Clayton area. J. Hemphill will pursue opportunities with Mayor Chosvig and J. Cooper, the EAWDB member from the Clayton area.

Youth Program

C. Lehman asked Sue Bracksieck, the Youth Council Chair, to discuss the Youth program. Sue Bracksieck related a few of the success stories in the area. A recent success included a legally blind youth who was mentored at the Boys and Girls club and after a full year was hired despite his handicap in a paid position at the Boys and Girls club. Another youth success was a young woman in Eunice who came from a single parent family with three younger siblings with no income other than public assistance. The young woman originally approached the youth case manager with the intention of guitting school and obtaining a full-time job to provide additional family income. However, the young woman, her mother, and the case manager where able to devise an individual plan that allowed the young woman to obtain employment but still remain in school and graduate. She has since graduated and is now working and attending college. The primary focus for case workers is to help youth remain in school but if a participant comes to the program already out of school than the case manager's work to help them obtain a diploma or equivalency and gainful employment. The program currently serves approximately 150 youth. The attendees discussed the options for community groups within the community to help support youth in their area. This support can include transportation costs, books, and other supportive services.

Contact Information

C. Lehman directed the attendees' attention to a packet handout that shows the contact information for the AE/FA staff and the contracted providers.

Other Items

C. Lehman reported to the board on the status of IT services in the One-Stop offices, the current initiative to focus on soft skills both at the state and local board levels, the current

transition to electronic record keeping, and the addition of a dedicated staff person to administer the WorkKeys program in the eastern area. C. Lehman also briefly discussed the current audit which is much improved over prior years. T. Roth will email the full audit to the all the CEOs. A brief discussion was held regarding the funding levels and projected funding levels including the mandatory spending requirements.

CEO Reports

Mayor White commented on the transition of board chairs along with the addition of AE/FA provider, Employment and Economic Information Center of New Mexico. Mayor White reported that Eunice still has a worker shortage and continues to look for programs that will help employers locate qualified staff. Mayor Chosvig turned the reporting over to J. Cooper who indicated that the economy has stabilized and that most jobseekers can find a job. Conflict arises when trying to connect new residences interested in the area with housing, shopping, etc. Mayor Chosvig said that entry-level housing is difficult to find. The city of Clayton is concentrating its efforts on marketing the area's industrial park. Mayor Williams reported that the turnover in the service industry continues to be a challenge in the Ruidoso Downs area. The mayor also reported that a biomass company is looking at Ruidoso Downs along with PNM in producing solar energy for the wastewater treatment plant. This would increase the wages in the area and provide a nice balance between the lower wages of the service industry and the higher wages of the college and other high skills employers. Mayor Venable of Cloudcroft reported that the prior year has been hard with the grocery store and one of two banks closing. Additionally, a new owner was being sought for a major retail outlet after the death of the prior owner. Cloudcroft is an entirely tourism supported economy and has no other major economic industry. The mill and logging industry has been completely shuttered. However, improvement can be seen with the addition of Family Dollar which will be a grocery provider. The new Family Dollar building is replacing an abandoned property with a country store facility that should blend well and be a welcome addition to the community. The new owners of the Burro Street Exchange have added a new bakery and a new retail shop. The Pine Stump mall has four new businesses after being completely rebuilt after a devastating fire. All these retail opportunities along with improved ski conditions and expanding into year-round activities at the lodge are providing improved employment opportunities. Steve Henderson, Roswell City Counselor, reported that Roswell has a worker shortage and is exploring opportunities to improve skill level among the residents. Currently, employers in the aircraft industry have to import and provide housing for employees from outside the area. GRT in Roswell is improving for the first time since 2007-08. Lodgers' taxes are also increasing. Counselor Henderson requested that contact information for the attendees be sent out by the WIA coordinator. Mayor Burch of Artesia noted the improvement of the EAWDB operations and commended the board and the AE/FA for their hard work. Mayor Burch reported that Artesia is enjoying solid employment and development of the community. Artesia's challenge is a worker shortage in Oil & Gas, service, and healthcare industries. Artesia has two new hotels breaking ground in the near future. There is a 300 unit apartment complex being built to ease the housing situation. Artesia's economic development unit has found that continued contact is the key to bringing new development to the community. Discussion ensued.

WIA Reauthorization

Terri Douglass provided an update on the current state of WIA reauthorization in Congress. Major changes proposed include moving the entire act under the USDOL rather than the current individual titles. There looks to be no major alterations to board membership requirements. A challenge for the eastern area may be the alignment of services to the individual labor market information which is

exceptionally diverse. Discussion ensued.

Other Business

T. Roth, WIA Coordinator, provided copies to the CEOs of the Chief Elected Officials agreement. This agreement is required by statute and it is the goal to have all 56 municipal entities be signatories to the agreement. Continued efforts by the WIA Coordinator will take place especially over the next 60-90 days. Copies of the Partnership Agreement signed by the lead CEO, Mayor White of Eunice, in October 2013 were also provided to the attendees.

On a motion by P. Burch and seconded by D. Venable, the meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.