

**Workforce Development  
Committee meeting  
August 17th 2011**

PRESENT: Kyle Erickson, Paula Frings, Jaci David, Mary Kosak, Lisa Randall, Jessica Knutson, Jane Bymark, Jim Smokrovich

STAFF: Kerry Larsen & Bud Stone

Kyle Erickson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 2011 MINUTES:

Jessica Knutson made a motion to accept the June 2011 minutes; Jaci David would like to make an amendment to the June minutes – Jaci was not at that meeting and it shows she attended; Kyle Erickson seconded the motion with that amendment; Motion carried.

ACTION: No further action needed.

EMILY BAXTER – CRIMINAL BACKGROUNDS:

Emily Baxter from the Council on Crime and Justice attended the Workforce Development Committee meeting to talk about how the Council is an independent voice for a balanced approach to criminal justice. It has also been at the forefront of many new programs in such areas as offender services, alternative sanctions, victim's rights, and restorative justice. Emily talked about many things including causes and consequences of crime, building community capacity, research, demonstration, advocacy and innovative strategies. Emily offered to speak to the Grand Rapids Area Chamber membership regarding this issue. Bud will bring it up to the Program Committee and see if they are interested in having Emily speak at the Feb. 2012 luncheon.

ACTION: Bud will talk with the Program Committee. Bud will get in touch with Emily after the program committee meeting.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS:

- Grand Works - Lisa Randall gave a brochure to the committee members. Grand Works is taking applications for the fall session. The brochure has information about the program with an application included.
- Teen Works – Paula gave an update on Teen works. Nine teens graduated. The teens were from Grand Rapids, Greenway and Deer River. Great group and they were very excited to participate.
- Ohio Study/Strive Partnership – Paula Frings and Jaci David explained what this program is about. The Strive Partnership is focused on the success of our children: every child, every step, from cradle to career. The Strive Partnership unites common providers around shared issues, goals, measurements and results, and then actively supports and strengthens strategies that work. The Strive Partnership has rallied around seven priority outcomes: kindergarten readiness, 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading proficiency, 8<sup>th</sup> grade math proficiency, high school graduation rates and ACT scores, and postsecondary enrollment and completion. These seven outcomes drive the collective work of the Strive Partnership. Paula will keep the committee updated on the outcomes of working with the community and this project.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be September 21<sup>st</sup> 2011 at 12:00 p.m. in the Chamber Conference Room.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by Kerry Larsen, Membership & Tourism CoordinatOR