

## **Workforce Development - April 16<sup>th</sup> 2008**

**PRESENT:** Bobbie Kleffman, Paula Frings, Mary Kosak, Megan Christiansen, Jason Merritt, Jim Smokrovich, Margie Ritter, Ann Backes – Dodge, Lisa Randall, Shelley Robinson, Leslie Speaker

**STAFF:** Kerry Larsen & Bud Stone

Megan Christiansen called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

### **March 2008 MINUTES:**

Megan Christiansen asked for a motion to approve the March 2008 minutes; Bobbie Kleffman made a motion to approve the March 2008 minutes; Mary Kosak seconded; motion carried.

Action: No further action is needed at this time

### **CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARDS:**

The committee members decided upon one gold star winner for the month of June 2008. Mary Kosak made a motion to approve the June 2008 gold star winner; Margie Ritter seconded; motion carried

ACTION: Kerry will call this award winner and make sure they are at the luncheon.

### **CONFERENCE CALL/JOE MIEZAREK – NATIONAL WORK READINESS:**

Joe Miezarek called in for a conference call with the Workforce Development Committee members. The purpose of the conference call was to answer any questions the committee members may have regarding this credential program. Joe has over 20 years of experience in workforce and education programs. Joe explained the National Work Readiness Credential is a certification of work readiness for entry-level work as defined by employers. It is the first national, standards-based assessment for entry-level workers to provide a universal, transferable, national standard for work readiness. Entry-level jobs are defined as non-supervisory, non-managerial, non-professional positions. These may be unskilled positions, or they may be skilled positions where the required job-specific skills can be learned while on the job. The committee asked many questions such as: What is the value to employers? What is the benefit for the public workforce? How will the National Work Readiness Credential help job seekers? What will happen if an individual finds out he/she is in need of more skill development to be work ready? What is the relationship to a high school diploma, GED, and postsecondary education? Do you have a record of employers that used this work readiness? If so how many were hired? After the conference call the committee had a brief discussion and expressed concerns with the program. The committee members will discuss on how to market this in the appropriate way at the May meeting.

ACTION: The committee members will discuss this assessment test at the May meeting and share ideas of a marketing strategy.

### **UPDATES ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:**

- Transportation website– Bobbi will report at the May meeting
- GRAND Works update
- Education legislation
- Future Workers
- Childcare: Rockin Around the Clock – Kerry will ask Carie Olds to report at the May meeting
- Forums: 3/27 update on jobs
- WFD grant
- Efolio info-handout
- Scholarship - Kerry Larsen informed the committee a lot of scholarships were dropped off and Sherry Palkki will be contacting the sub-committee to look over the applications.
- National Work Readiness Credential

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be May 21st 2008@ 12:00 noon, Chamber Conference Room

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by Kerry Larsen, Membership & Tourism Coordinator