

Present: Janelle Martinsen, Rena Appel, Randy Wilson, Brooke Kaercher, Cody Sinclair, Linda Gostas, Deb Pruss., Kevin Price, Jaime Lewis, Shari Peddicord, Philippe Chino.

1. UPDATES

- Co-Chair – Kevin Price has agreed to co-chair in Patrick Schilling’s absence.
- Strategic Plan Goals & Initiatives
 - Each Subcommittee Develop Specific Action Plans with Detailed Strategies, Timelines, and Funding Requirements to coincide with Strategic Plan Initiatives – for the next five years.
 - Forward Sheridan will eventually go through another 5-year funding campaign and identify projects that we will raise the money for. This committee is asked to come up with an amount that we will need for the next five years. (i.e. visitations to bases, college job fairs, etc.)
- Subcommittee Updates:
 - Mature Workers
 - Name the group and identify the need. Add new people to the committee.
 - Challenges
 - Age discrimination
 - Scheduling issues
 - Ages not identified; people who are retiring and wanting a second career
 - Positives – Wealth of talent available to reconnect
 - Develop Database for Jobs & Skills Available – try to work through Workforce Services.
 - Workforce Center – Create a specialist position to work with mature workers (similar to the specialist who works with veterans).
 - Focus Groups
 - Educate Mature Workers -- Re-educate into new jobs, update skills, etc.
 - Assessments – Possibly utilize WorkKeys to assess skills needed for a specific jobs (through potential employers), assess skills of prospective candidate, and retrain in areas to fill gaps identified in skills assessments.
 - Educate Businesses to help them define jobs that would attract older workers.
 - Job Fairs
 - Next mg Feb 27: Workforce Center, 2:00 PM.
 - Jobs Database – Met Friday.
 - Infrastructure is in place through Dept of Workforce Services.
 - WFS is able to authorize the use of a Community Page for local use.
 - Reach out to other organizations and create a Web Ring on a page – get together with Mark Thoney for organizations to download the same page

- Constantly reinforce the image and connection
 - Define entities for the page
 - Get people to each others' websites
 - Look at Direct Employers Association to get ideas about this type of thrust.
 - People want to find jobs – aggregate sites are now more successful.
 - Need to define the goals and objectives of having this page
 - Get pricing and see who will help make it happen
 - Jobs would still be posted at Workforce Services
 - There is need for an education program to encourage Sheridan area businesses to post jobs on the Wyoming Workforce Services website
 - Advantages to their business
 - When recruiting, provides access to possible positions for trailing spouses
 - Identify process to get employers to post their jobs – advantages – are we going to use the committee to talk to businesses, or are we going to hire a consulting firm to help with a presentation to organizations.
- Military Workers
 - Need to set a time to meet
 - Randy Wilson would like to be on this group as well.
 - Randy did some research on areas where individuals are getting out of the service – processing centers. VA did not have good luck with this process.
 - Career/Technical Education
 - Career Academies are to be instituted in Fall 2009
 - The CTE Task force is looking to recruit industry partners – business needs to be a voice and be heard regarding relevance of education programs for businesses in the community
 - Internships are currently available – Contact Kathleen Pilch (SHS) 672-2495 ext 2109, pilch@scsd2.com for information and to contract an intern
 - HYPE
 - Hype has been busy providing activities to entertain young people.
 - They are looking at how to bring restaurants to the area.
 - Hype is coming under the Chamber umbrella as a committee to get direct access to the membership database and create a place to deposit funding.
 - Retreat this weekend – Occidental Hotel – Buffalo
 - Recruitment strategies – creating “My Space” and “Linked In” pages. Also pages on Forward Sheridan and Chamber websites. Getting email address through the Chamber.
 - Tapping into college alumni networks also and connect them through the “Linked In” sites.

- Hope to reach out to other college communities in the region during their Career or Job Placement Fairs to attract people
 - Governor's Workforce Development Conference – May 28-29
 - Awards are being given – if members have nominations, get them to Forward Sheridan staff.
2. **NEXT MEETING?**
- Meetings for the next few months will occur on the 4th Thursday
 - Next Meeting: March 27 -- 12:00 Noon – Forward Sheridan. Lunch will be provided.