

ICED Meeting Minutes

130 W. Mason, Room 104, Springfield

100 W. Randolph, Suite 5-300, Chicago

October 1, 2014

1:30 p.m.

Attendance

Susan Allen, DHR

Nicole Jorwic, DHS for Francisco Alvarado

Wendy Butler, CMS

Fee Habtes/Miguel Calderon, Department of Veterans' Affairs

Drew Barris (by phone), Civil Service Commission

Margaret Harkness, ICDD

Bill Bogdan, SOS

Virginia Dillard, Visitor

Martha Younger-White, DHS

Lori Tinsley, Illinois State Treasurer

Deb Matheny, UIC-SCC

Randolph A. Boschulte, DCEO

Erik Cozzolino, DHS

Barbara Peake, DHS

Jason Brewer, DNR

Wanda Satkas (by phone),

Debbi Johnson-Small (by phone),

Caroline Alamillo (by phone), DES

Anna D'Ascenzo (by phone), DES

Employment First Policy Presentation by Nicole Jorwic, Department of Human Services

Nicole is the Senior Policy Advisory for the Employment First Program. She has a background a lawyer and a brother with autism, which created an interest in this field. Nicole just began her work with the program 3 weeks prior to the meeting. She said that by December 31, by executive order, in conjunction with Economic Opportunity Task Force, are to have a plan in place on where they are going with the program. She was present at the meeting representing Francisco Alvarado. Nicole was very open to questions and suggestions and gave two contact numbers where she can be reached. Her e-mail address is Nicole.Jorwic@illinois.gov and her cell phone number is 312-898-7398. Susan Allen stressed that there is an overlap in missions of their two entities and offered any assistance that she could provide. Susan also suggested that Nicole may be able to assist with the internship program issue that would be discussed later in the meeting. Nicole had to make her presentation brief as she had another meeting which she had to leave to attend.

Approval of August, 2014 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the August 2014 minutes and was seconded. It passed.

Work Group Reports

Internship Program for College Students with Disabilities

An open discussion was held on the Internship Program and its future.

Susan started out by noting that the Internship has been around for many years and the program has done many good things; however, it has dwindled in recent years due to the lack of hiring in State agencies. Martha Younger-White pointed out that the Illinois Association of

Minorities in Government and the Illinois Association of Hispanic Employees both have internships and really own their groups. It was noted that a provider agency, Anixter, Center did the recruitment and screening of candidates early on. ICED had a pipeline going both ways – college students looking for jobs and agencies looking for interns. Only two interns were working this last summer. Martha said she even had a doctoral candidate who was looking for work. Some of the questions raised were: What kind of application is needed? Who will look at it and make the hiring decisions? What would the job title be if candidates will move from the Internship Program into permanent jobs? How would the Internship be financed? One suggestion was to look at the Michael Curry Internship out of the Governor's Office. One thing that has changed and made things more difficult, Susan said, is that they cannot reach out directly to agencies for placements. She noted that at one time she had an aerospace engineer candidate and asked IDOT to place him, which it did. Wendy felt that it was a good idea to explore modeling it after the Michael Curry Internship and keeping it a program under the ICED.

She noted that that internship program is well-known, and students seek it out. Erik suggested introducing the program to people in STEP. Bill noted that Employment First is a hot topic right now and that the group should utilize it as far as possible. He stressed that persons with disabilities should be mandated as part of internship hires. Susan said she liked the idea of a stand-alone program. An internship program that recruited disabled veterans, as well as other people with disabilities, was also suggested. It was suggested that ICED consider the State Board of Education and constitutional agencies and those not under the governor's control for placements. Margie asked how the internship is paid for and it was decided to do a project search and see how other internships are financed. Martha asked why OJT (on the job training) money couldn't be used and suggested talking to DHS regarding this. She also suggested that there may be someone at the Governor's Office who would know all the funding sources. Martha also suggested putting together a smaller group to put together an outline that could be taken to the Governor's Office. She also asked who would own the program. Susan said that the Co-Chairs could talk to the Governor's Office about the program. It was decided that Bill Bogdan, Erick, Susan, Margie, and Jason would work on the smaller group and Wendy will act as a consultant.

Education/Training

Susan gave an update on the union webinar suggestion. She said that AFSCME would be happy to participate after November. Labor Relations and CMS should also be involved, it was noted.

Publications/Website

It was reported that an Annual Report draft is available. Susan noted that Margie had an idea that she wanted to get the opinion of the members on. How would they feel about dedicating

the report to the two people lost to death this past year (Sue Johnson-Smith and Dan Dickerson)? It was suggested that a dedication page could be used instead of a narrative paragraph. The members present all thought that it was a great idea.

It was also decided that Erik will be listed as the editor on the newsletter.

Susan also reported that they are moving ahead with the website design, and it is developing into a really great website.

Other Business

A vote was taken on the public participation guidelines. Drew made a motion to accept them as written and Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next meeting will be December 3, 2014, at the Stratton Building, Room 500 1/2.

Submitted By,

Barbara Peake