

8.E.1 Approval of SWWDB WIA Local Plan 2005-07 – Phase 2 (Action)

In March 2005, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) announced a new, two-phase process for development of the WIA Local Plans. The Phase One Plan, which DWD viewed as a compliance document, required the WDBs to submit a plan using the guidelines previously developed by DWD. The Plan was submitted in April 2005. DWD then began an extended process to seek input from WDBs and other required partners on their vision for restructuring the workforce development and One-Stop (Job Center) delivery systems. DWD made it abundantly clear that they were working to restructure the workforce delivery system and forecast that significant changes would be forthcoming when new planning guidelines were published.

The Phase Two guidelines were published on December 29, 2005. The guidelines are a major departure from the current Job Center system, redirecting service delivery to a demand-driven system linking economic and workforce development while maintaining a comprehensive service structure for job seekers. Training resources are focused more on “high wage, high growth” jobs and new initiatives for financial literacy, career planning/advising and career resiliency have emerged. Services are corrected to health care and another locally defined occupational area. Out of school youth become a priority for youth funding. But, the biggest change is the new standards for comprehensive job centers and the impact it will have on the current Job Center system, particularly in rural communities.

The planning guidelines call for an interactive and collaborative process involving a wide variety of partners and other stakeholders. SWWDB staff has held two meetings with the mandatory partner agencies, two meetings with economic development representatives from throughout the region and two meetings with the Local Elected Officials (LEOs). In addition, numerous other individual and small group meetings have been held Job Center operations and staffing.

The information collected through these meetings was shared with the Board and the Planning/Visioning meeting that was held on in February 22, 2006. Since then meeting, staff has diligently worked to develop the SWWDB WIA Local Plan 2005-07 - Phase 2. A draft copy of this plan document is enclosed as Attachment 1.

A majority of this meeting will be spent hearing from staff their recommendations regarding the service delivery system, particularly the structure of the southwest Wisconsin Job Center network. Staff will also review the content of the plan and respond to questions regarding future workforce development services in southwest Wisconsin.

Board members will be asked to approve the SWWDB WIA Local Plan 2005-07 - Phase 2 at the conclusion of the presentations and discussions. Approval is needed because the plan document must be submitted to DWD by March 31, 2006.

Approval of the plan, however, does not end the process. Submission of the plan triggers a 30-day public review and comment process with all comments received needing to be forwarded to DWD. Staff will also need to negotiate and finalize

ENCLOSURE 7

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for the comprehensive job center (CJC) and each Access Points Service (APSs) which must be submitted to DWD by June 30, 2006. The new Business Services Plan must also be written, in collaboration with the Job Center Business Relations Team, and submitted to DWD by August 31, 2006. Other new systems of service must also be implemented. The Board will be kept informed as these activities are accomplished.