



Vision Shared Inc.
Workforce Committee
Leadership Team Meeting
November 30, 2012

Attendees: Don Rigby, Jim Denova, Kathy D'Antoni, Rebecca McPhail-Randolph

The group convened to discuss the next area of focus in terms of Vision Shared's workforce development goals and objectives.

Rebecca Randolph provided an overview of the findings from Vision Shared's education audit forum in the area of better connecting workforce development and education. She noted that there may be some area within the recommendations which received consensus which Vision Shared could facilitate. The recommendations that were favorably received during the forums include:

- Enhancing strategic planning and collaboration between education, workforce & economic development
- Developing integrated performance measures in workforce & education
- Improving the use of job forecasting data in secondary & post-secondary planning
- Supporting different design approaches
- Better integrate career preparedness into the standard curriculum

Don Rigby noted his feeling that a pilot program is needed to bring together the secondary schools career tech centers, community and technical colleges and that perhaps Vision Shared could assist with legislation to approve such a venture. **Kathy D'Antoni provided an overview of a program the WVDE is launching in up to nine schools in West Virginia that will bring together business and secondary level career and technical centers, but explained that Vision Shared could assist with adding a pilot area where the community and technical college producing a fully implemented program.** She explained that these sites will consist of nine "workplace incubators" here local business will be engaged in certifying programs in the career and technical centers indicating that the programs meet the standards and needs of these potential employers.

Discussion ensued regarding the Caperton Center in Parkersburg which was intended to blend a community and technical college with a high school career and technical center. Dr. D'Antoni explained that while the concept is wonderful, there are some issues of direction and ownership. She noted that there has been some difficulty in that career pathways have not been established. Discussion continued regarding WV Code 2510 (attached) and if possibly addressing this could enable the loosening of curriculum standards?

Dr. D'Antoni explained that another possible area of positive impact for Vision Shared is a parent education component for core competencies.

Mr. Rigby noted the negatives and positives with being small as a state. While it is tough to compete with larger resource pools, he explained that it is often easier to beat larger states with speed, understanding of programs, etc. Yet, we he noted that we often fall short

because we don't replicate successful programs or "tweak" and continue programs that have potential but are struggling.

Dr. D'Antoni noted that another action item could be an assessment into the duplication of resources among West Virginia's community and technical colleges and career tech center. She noted the duplication primarily occurs in equipment and facilities costs, explaining that because of the nature of these programs, the often times operate on schedules that would complement the possibility of shared resources and significant savings. There she explained that a statewide panel of educators and business members to assess what is owed in terms of equipment before more is purchased.

It was determined that a possible pilot area could be Hancock County and Jim Denova noted that there may be an opportunity to fund the pilot through Benedum. Geographically this area presents two counties career tech schools with a community and technical college present between those two schools. Steps for moving forward were identified as follows:

- Adapt the program plan currently being refined by WVDE
- Obtain a waiver from the legislator to conduct this pilot
- Engage Benedum to assist with funding the pilot
- Identify potential industry partners

Mr. Rigby noted that a more comprehensive public awareness campaign is still needed to shine light on the actual workforce and education needs. He cited that in the five job zones the percentage of professional level of jobs available hasn't changed since 1950 (estimated at 20 percent of the total workforce need).

Action Plan

Committee Objective: To reform career and technical education to be more responsive to business and industry needs. Visioning boldly and building incrementally.

Who: Business & Industry, secondary and post secondary level schools, the West Virginia Legislator, funding partners, and Vision Shared.

How:

- Draft Plan
- Legislative and regulatory system analysis
- Pilot project industry driven career centers (business incubators and simulated work centers) PLUS in one system, include the community college.
- Plan draft
- Develop outcome measures (test scores, completion, reduced absenteeism, career preparedness)
- Industry partners/technical teams (set up across WV)

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.