

April 17, 2014

PRI Jobs/Employment meeting notes

(2:00 pm – 3:30 pm)

Large Conference Room (Goodwill Main Campus)

Attendees:

Jane Butzier, Tom Emling, Dawn McLaughlin, Suzy Puroll, Sakura Raftery, Jim Rowlett

Meeting notes:

The key question raised by Sakura: What is the approach that PRI should pursue to create a better employment environment for people in poverty?

Tom E.- reviewed work done by Teamwork Northwest at Crystal Mountain and provided highlights from Tamarack Institute discussion on April 9th

Key factors of previous success:

1. Some form of investment from business community
2. Access to shared supports (i.e. training, HR, employee resources, transportation)
3. Addressing the businesses need
4. Self-awareness of business “poverty friendly factor”

Suzy P., representing the Job Developers Network (JDN), introduced the group (see attached Description of Member Services) and shared the following:

- JDN was formed to have a network-based approach for placing individuals living in poverty and/or with disabilities and/or other barriers to employment in the Grand Traverse Area
- The Job Developers Network (JDN) offers a step forward for inviting area employers and business owners -- one by one...from a personal perspective and individual "what works" perspective to tell us what are their key employment and training, plus overall workplace/worker/employee challenges.
- There is a need to gather more data/facts about the economic benefits of employing people in poverty/with disabilities. (*Jane B.* may have some information from Gretchen Swanson to provide to the group)
- The JDN is hosting an **Employer Event at Right Brain Brewery on May 21st, 3-4 pm** to talk about what services the network brings to employers

Below are three potential areas of focus for PRI:

Business Engagement

- Connect programs with community leaders—How can we collaborate with the JDN to share their work, and leverage their “on the ground” knowledge of the underground job network
- Could PRI teach business what the problem is? Connect this with the information that came from Opportunities Summit/Employment Breakout Session (see attached):

- Childcare availability
 - Only part-time availability
 - Reliable transportation
 - Competition with migrant workers
 - “labeling the poor”
 - Career laddering
- What is the benefit to businesses? We should find this out by *listening* to what their employment challenges are, not telling them what they will get out of it (per Tamarack)

Education

- To support neighbors’ awareness of the job market and career paths, starting young is better (Jim R.) We could provide opportunities in the following areas:
 - Job shadowing with select employers for high school students
 - Career mentoring
 - Internships
 - Talent Tours (Michigan Works! currently doing this in a few locations)

Public Engagement

- We are all “over trained” and possibly over-lectured! Could we present short but powerful content about the effects of poverty? Possibly a public screening of Brandon’s SOC 201 video presentation at The State followed by a community conversation?
- Come up with key discussion topics, including “trauma informed” perspective
- GT Pie as a community/business champion
- Collaborate with the 5 to 1 program for helping parents get access to services, help promote universal design concept