

Citizens for a Vibrant Economy
Workforce Action Team
Meeting #1, March 24, 2016
Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions:

Attendees: Becky Merrow, Neal Brown, Michelle Hinds, Greg Noyes, Lisa Whitaker, Ray Gorman, Ann Nygard, Michelle Moren-Gray, Thad Guldbrandsen, Ben Amsden, Facilitator: Brendan Prusik

Neal Brown presented this action team's progress at the Feb. 20 Summit

2. The charge of this action team:

a. Why are we here:

- Our area is in need of employees possessing a number of values
- Community-wide concern of where our next workforce is coming from
- The need for our current workforce to properly "sell" our region, which requires training resources.
- Area need for blue collar workers (ie plumbers, housekeepers), as well as tourism professionals

b. What we wish to accomplish:

- Ensure education for middle school and high school students to prepare and entice them to join the local workforce and remain in the area
- Establish training programs for employees and potential employees in customer service and skills needed to "sell" our region

c. Possible projects to achieve our goals:

1. Perform a cluster analysis of industry in the area with potential for students to move into those specific industries
2. Review of trades programs, agricultural programs and hospitality programs currently in place at local high schools; ie. Canaan program. Share these programs
3. Offer public workshops on guest services for anyone, whether employed or not (Chamber of Commerce could help us get this out to the community)
4. Perhaps establish a building trades center in an empty local building
5. Prepare for 'New' hospitality jobs. –Any efforts in High School now? Lyndon State Resource
6. Heightening STEAM education opportunities.
7. Prepare students for Health & Human Services jobs.
8. Look at all collaborators – for all projects.
9. Explore synergies with Lyndon State 8th grade engagement program. Ann will send links to all.
10. Explore middle school opportunities. (First priority from Summit)
11. Work Ready – for currently unemployed at WMCC. *Need to check this. NHES also has programs for under-employed or community college.
12. Start a 4 year college in Coös OR college-level opportunities in Coös. Thad: Collaboration from multiple institutions.
13. Raise level of aspiration for Coös kids. [Note: 80% in Colebrook have gone on to pursue higher education]
14. Inform students of opportunities that are available in this region with and without post-secondary education.
15. Develop work force that can mow the lawn, make beds, do dishes, etc. (Requires time, supervision)

16. Include retirees – this competes with benefits they are currently receiving.

- d. Resources we can use to accomplish our goals:
1. See that all area schools participate in high school trades, agricultural and hospitality programs
 2. Implement/use school to work programs
 3. Employers could offer internships for students
 4. White Mountain Community College- xxxxxxx
 5. Lyndon State College resources
 6. Plymouth State University
 7. WREN programs
 8. NH Employment Security - xxxxxxx
 9. Pool resources of experienced community members for employee training in customer service
 10. Explore middle school opportunities (ie. LSC “Kingdom Careers Connect” for 8th graders)
 11. NCIC – xxxxxxx
 12. UNH Cooperative Extension
3. Member roles and responsibilities
- a. Team leader: Neal Brown
 - b. Note taker: Michelle Hinds
 - c. Additional local people to invite to this action team:
 - K-12 Educators:**
xxxxxxx

 - Businesses:**
 - Britni from North Country Chamber of Commerce will solicit businesses especially beyond Colebrookxxxxxxx

 - Municipal Officials:**
xxxxxxx

 - Uncategorized:**
xxxxxxx
4. Next meeting for this workforce team:
April 7, 5:30 – 7:30pm at The Spa
5. Other meeting dates & locations: TBA