

**STATE WORKFORCE INNOVATION COUNCIL (SWIC)
EDUCATIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ERC)**

December 15, 2011

8:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Indiana Government Center South

Conference Room 5

Indianapolis, IN

Present: Dan Clark, James Dunn, Sandy Hartz, Leroy Jackson Jr., Derek Redelman

Absent: Teresa Lubbers, Dennis Rohrs, Debra Williams

Also Present: From the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD): Dr. Gina DelSanto, Nate Klinck, Marie Mackintosh, Brenda Johnson, Chris Deaton and Donna Lovelady

The meeting was called to order by Dan Clark, at 8:10 a.m. A quorum was present to conduct committee business.

The ERC welcomed a new member, Sandy Hartz, current president of the Indiana Association of Adult and Continuing Education and adult education coordinator at Walker Career Center, MSD Warren Township, in Indianapolis.

The November 10, 2011 meeting minutes (Handout #1) were presented for approval. Motion to approve was made by James Dunn; seconded by Leroy Jackson. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

PLA Overview:

Discussion on Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) policy was led by Gina DelSanto.

Background

The Council for Adult & Experiential Learning (CAEL) spoke to the SWIC a year ago about PLA for the adult learner entering or re-entering post-secondary education. (For more information, please see ERC Minutes, July 14, 2011.) In certain situations, PLA may allow an individual to forego some classes based on previous professional learning experiences. Military crossover has been in place for several years, allowing returning veterans to use their relevant experience in the armed forces as credit in post-secondary institutions. This model is now being used in the civilian sector by creating an electronic portfolio to be assessed for issuance of credits which accelerates the goal of achieving a degree or certificate and saves money for the student. One of the key values the ERC endorsed included the notion that: credit awarded must count toward an academic program or major. Also, the client must be accepted at an institution prior to utilizing the PLA program.

DWD recommended adoption of the PLA policy (Handout #2), and opened the up the floor for discussion.

Discussion

One question that arose was “Will WIA pay for “transfer credits?” If a credit is awardable or transferable through the PLA portfolio, the institution cannot charge a fee for accepting it. WIA funds should not pay for these credits; either the fee is waived or paid for by the student. Institutions will incur a cost for reviewing student portfolios to determine if credits can be awarded. However, this assessment should be markedly less than the cost of an entire semester of learning.

Derek Redelman moved that the ERC approve the proposed resolution: Mr. Redelman asked that DWD staff encourage the Adult Education field to use PLA where appropriate and continue to perfect the practices and policy, with fee structure modifications as discussed. Leroy Jackson seconded this motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Adult Education Policies

The committee next considered the Adult Education policies. Marie Mackintosh reviewed the three which were revised since the November meeting: Funding, Distance Education and Professional Qualifications and Development.

Adult Education Funding—References to some legal precedents were removed to provide clarity.

Distance Education—The draft was changed to allow more latitude for providers to use other distance education tools, as approved by the state director.

Gina DelSanto commented that no one online remediation tool will do everything that DWD and the programs require. An online remediation needs to provide both deep and broad testing. DelSanto remarked that the policy needs to be flexible enough to allow the field to get the best value for the results needed. However, if a clearly superior product becomes available, all programs will use it.

Professional Qualifications and Development—The draft was revised to focus more on goals achieved than on hours spent in training. Required training topics are included in this draft.

Derek Redelman moved to approve all eight of the Adult Education Policies (Handout #3). The motion was seconded by Leroy Jackson. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Other topics for discussion

Customer Flow

Marie Mackintosh reported that the Customer Flow Policy is being revised based on the fine field feedback and will return to the Committee in February.

IN Training

Brenda Johnson presented the monthly report of training programs. (Handout #4) Next, she shared information on concerns about a green training program that had been submitted to DWD for review. (Handout #5) DWD recommended denial of this program because it did not fit the criteria developed by the Committee.

James Dunn moved to follow the DWD recommendation to deny approval of “green” training funding. Leroy Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

New Career and Technical Education Responsibilities

Chris Deaton gave a brief presentation explaining DWD’s role in overseeing secondary and post-secondary Career and Technical Education. He discussed federal requirements, SWIC legislated and operational duties, and details of state and local plans. (Handout #6)

GED Computer-based testing developments

Marie Mackintosh gave an update on GED Computer-Based Testing. It will be piloted at the Lafayette, Marion and Muncie Ivy Tech Community Colleges beginning in January, 2012.

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

DRAFT