



**Sandusky-Seneca
One Stop Partners Meeting
January 24, 2006 – 3:30 P.M.
Seneca County DJFS**

Present: Cheryl Denny, Jerri Carper, Steven Michaluk, Harold Polley, Maria (Susan) Sepeda, Dennis Newman, Jimmie Young, Beverly Henry, Dale Stearns, Carol Owen, Bonnie Nusser, Suzanne Willacker, Kay Kieffer.

Welcome/Introductions (Dale Stearns)

Dale Stearns welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.

Minutes (October 25, 2005: Approval)

Denny Newman motioned for the October 25, 2005 meeting minutes to be approved. Cheryl Denny seconded the motion. It was noted, however, that the following corrections should be made:

- Under parties present, the spelling of Dennis Newman's name should be corrected. It was noted as "Denise" in error.
- Under Old Business/VSTB program, the minutes stated \$250,000 in additional money was requested, but that amount should have read "\$150,000 additional money".

Job Store/One Stop Reports (Bonnie Nusser)

The most recent "Traffic Report" was issued to those present. Business has been booming at the One Stops. Jimmie Young was thanked for his mass recruiting efforts with Heinz, Fisher & Paykel, and Wal-Mart.

Quarterly reports have been e-mailed. There were 66 workshops held with 314 participants being served. Carol Guice has initiated programs with Sandco, Crosswaeh and Fostoria High School. The workshops held at the library were not proving to be successful. Fostoria High School's program is going well, however, and Carol has been able to touch 205 students through these sessions thus far. They are also trying to work with WSOS and collaborate on after-school programs for youth.

As of December 2005, contract expenditures were at 57% of budget. Everything is going as planned. Advertising media was discussed. It was pointed out that the billboard on Route 53 remains in place. Also, Jimmie Young added that there is a new radio program on WFOB 1430 called "Talk at 10". Seneca County purchased spots will be aired from 10:30-11:00 a.m., on the third Monday of each month. This spot is to have featured guest speakers providing information on various programs available in the county. Kathy Oliver participated in the January program, and Bev Henry and Bonnie Nusser will be participating in the near future. If anyone else is interested, they can contact Jimmie Young.

The Northcoast System is gearing toward Level 3 Certification. Baldrige criteria has been met, and everything is in place, except for the vision statement, which needs to be submitted for approval for the June 2006 deadline.

Bonnie Nusser, Carol Owen, Bev Henry and Jimmie Young will be attending the upcoming Workforce 411 Conference, which will be held February 15 & 16 in Columbus. The conference is designed to assist local workforce systems in integrating local services and program services for employers and job seekers. Pamphlets were disbursed for the conference, and if anyone is interested in attending, registration can be made on-line.

Old Business

Referral & Data Entry/One Stop Partners: (Bonnie Nusser)

Bonnie does not feel there are any problems with referrals between the One Stop and the partners. Coverage with the partner agencies appears to be going well. The One Stop now has an Experience Works partner again. Tremendous tracking assistance services are being provided.

Cross Informing/Migrant Outreach Staff: (Maria "Susan" Sepeda)

Susan Sepeda from ODJFS Migrant Services gave an update on Santos Celestino's condition. Santos was unable to attend, as she is currently hospitalized in Intensive Care Unit with a stomach/viral infection. All partners extended their sympathy to Santos.

An update was given regarding the declining migrant population in this area. The decline is due to several reasons such as the farmers being unable to supply migrant workers with sufficient work, as well as harvesting becoming automated. Hurricane Katrina has also had a huge impact, as many of the migrants have gone to the heavily impacted states that need re-building. Migrant Services staff are working on a Pilot Program in which they are contacting employers, extension agencies, greenhouses and area farmers, as well as attending growers' conferences, in hopes of recruiting more interest in utilizing migrant workers. They are also sending clearance orders to others states in hopes of attracting additional workers to the five county area of Seneca, Sandusky, Ottawa, Lucas and Wood. One positive for Ohio is that the migrants do not have to pay for housing, which does not apply in other states.

The migrant population is a benefit to the area, because they bring in much revenue to the area, as well as pay taxes. Generally, the money they earn here is spent here. Wages for the migrants depend on the grower, but the average is between \$6-\$9 per hour. With pickle plants, migrants receive 50% of the crop's revenues, and they can earn up to \$15-\$16 per hour. With peppers, their compensation is based on a determined price per hamper – usually about 50 cents per hamper.

Susan informed the partners that Santos Celestino and two other staff members are housed at the Sandusky Co. One Stop, and Susan is housed at a new ODJFS trailer in Genoa. This site is located on Route 51.

New Business:

Business Team Update: (Carol Owen)

No updates given – Carol reported that e-mail communications continue.

Continuous Improvement: (Bonnie Nusser)

In/Out Boards have been installed at the One Stop office for improved customer service.

The business/employment guide has been updated. If anyone has any suggestions for improvements, they were encouraged to contact Bonnie.

MOU Negotiations: (Bonnie Nusser)

NRAC (Northcoast Regional Advisory Committee) will be holding a follow-up meeting on February 7th at 1:00 p.m. to discuss commitments of partners' resources and hours. Spreadsheets are established which reflect partners' financial and hourly commitments. Projected costs have been lower than expected, and it was announced that partner credits can be issued as a refund check or they may be applied toward next year's financial contribution.

Agency Updates:

(Harold Polley for Veteran Assistance)

As of January 2006, the coverage for veteran representatives has changed. Harold Polley will be at Sandusky County One Stop on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays; and at Seneca County One Stop on Wednesdays. David Greenwalt is at Sandusky County One Stop on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The vet reps will be hosting an OTAP training event on February 6 & 7 at Erie County Amvets. They are also looking at hosting an event at the Seneca County Amvets sometime during the summer months of July, August or September. There is an 80% hire rate as a result of OTAP, so that is proving to be very successful.

Cheryl Stiles has taken a new position and moved on to District 3, which covers Southeastern Ohio. Larry Ashbaugh is the replacement for Cheryl.

(Dennis Newman for Vanguard/Sentinel/ABLE)

Vanguard/Sentinel is excited to announce the addition of a new satellite site for ABLE, which is a childcare center located in Stryker Center at Fremont. They have also obtained the Even Start Grant, which offers adult education for parents of the childcare participants. Alma Herrera is the bi-lingual teacher for that site, as 80% of those enrolled speak English as their secondary language.

(Cheryl Denny of WSOS)

Cheryl reported they are working with OJT for Sandusky County WIA adults. They are now recruiting dislocated workers for on-the-job training. They are able to reimburse the employer for 50% of wages with this program.

(Beverly Henry of Seneca Co. DJFS)

Jimmie Young was introduced as Employer Liaison for DJFS. He is employed with the agency 25 hours per week. Jimmie has had great success in working with the new Tiffin Wal-Mart. Interviews are presently being conducted at the agency, as Wal-Mart will be hiring 200 additional workers, for a total of 400 employees (with current staff), at their new location. As the applicants are coming through for Wal-Mart interviews, they are also being signed up in the SCOTI system, so the One Stop staff has been very busy assisting with that.

(Carol Owen of Sandusky Co. DJFS)

JR Lopez has accepted a promotion to a Supervisor with ODJFS. He will now be located at the Tiffin Processing Center, located on Miami Street. Cheri Phillips from the Mansfield Processing Center may possibly be JR Lopez' replacement.

Carol Owen announced she has accepted the WIA Administrator position at Seneca Co. DJFS. Her last day at Sandusky Co. DJFS is March 8.

Carol also mentioned that NRAC will be making a decision regarding the contract with Terra Community College for the One Stop RFP. NRAC will have to decide on whether to bid out again or roll the contract. However, opening up the contract may result in other changes, such as no pay increase for Bonnie Nusser and her staff. This would be the third consecutive year for their pay freeze. Bonnie encouraged the use of work study students, as that significantly lowers costs for the program.

Other:

The resignation of Roger Fisher from Inclusive Solutions was accepted. Inclusive Solutions will no longer be a partner. Pete Cardenas of ODJFS has also resigned from the One Stop.

Carol Owen introduced the topic of the future status of the One Stop Partners group. Dale Stearns then questioned whether to continue to have these meetings, as it is not a mandated Board, and since it seemed all parties are being represented at NRAC. It was unanimous that future meetings would be on "as needed" basis, and agencies would give their updates at the quarterly NRAC meetings. If anyone has information in between these meetings, e-mail communication can be utilized. It was noted that there may be a need for a planning meeting in July or August, as September is Workforce Services Month. In honor of that, the One Stop will, once again, be hosting Project Day Maker, where clients can have their hair and nails done for free.

Due to the potential discontinuation of these meetings, no Vice President was appointed.

Next Meeting:

The next quarterly meeting of NRAC is scheduled for February 7, 2006. MOU and partner hours will be discussed.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.