

CARBON COUNTY PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

Minutes—April 17, 2009



Those in attendance: Pat Sasserath, Cyndi Zimmerman, George Ashman, Anthony Taibi, Wayne Nothstein, Susan Tyler, Jeanne Miller, Elissa Thorne, Ron Blisard, Joe Sebelin, George Wells, and Kristin Simmons.

President Elissa Thorne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Acceptance of Minutes:

MOTION: A motion to accept the minutes for March 20, 2009 included spelling corrections for Matt Cordes and Michael Heery was made by Ron Blisard and seconded by George Ashman. Motion carried.

Workforce Development in Northeastern Presentation

Joe Sebelin, Pocono Counties WIA, provided a brief history of the organization. He explained how the “Economic Stimulus” funds will be distributed. The workforce investment focuses on the private sector. There will be money for adults 23+ who meet eligibility requirements to provide training i.e. nursing, CDL license, etc. The dislocated worker program is for those individuals who have lost their jobs and can't go back. There is stimulus money for youth under 24 years old. They are putting together a community forum to network from work to school and provide funds for college. AHEC will host the forum. It would provide training & work experience and pay workers to work at non-profit organizations. A full-page ad will be placed to get the word out about the program.

Career Cruising is a software package for high school students to conduct interest survey; then do research on course requirement, facts, figures, and occupational outlook. The aging labor force at Tobyhanna will soon be retiring. They will need a labor force to replace these workers.

Old Business:

Foundation

Peter Kern, Dawn Ferrante, Elissa Thorne, and Wayne Nothstein met with Charles Barber of the Luzerne Foundation. It was an informational meeting and he provided them with a wealth of information. The foundation project sounds achievable.

Carbon County Child & Family Collaborative

Jeanne Miller reported that the cross training is setup for the year. A fall kickoff will be held in conjunction with the Bo Tkach Foundation for Youth Mental Health Access (Carbon County). The Collaborative will not meet during the summer. Larissa Kimmel works with homeless individuals through a local church.

Education & Workforce Programs

There will be two Educator in the Workplace Programs. June 8 – 12 and June 15 – 19. 15 Middle School teachers/guidance counselors will participate each week. They will attend sessions on workforce development and economic development in Carbon County as well as network on the effectiveness of how they have implemented Career Education and Work

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Standards in their schools. They will tour local businesses and have the opportunity to speak with individuals about the workforce needs in the high priority occupations in the county.

The Community Services for Children program is too much for Carbon Career & Technical Institute. The program will be referred to the academic program at Lehigh Carbon Community College.

Marketing & Public Relations

Website & Domain

The goal is to have the website ready by June and it should be up soon. Both domain names have been registered: carboncountypartners.org and carboncountypartners.com. Currently, a draft page can be viewed at <http://web.ptd.net/partners>.

Report Publication

Matt Cordese has all the information and the report should be ready by May 1st. He is creating a nice report. A limited number of hard copies will be published. A “pdf” file of the report will be created and it will be available on the website.

Other Items:

- Leadership Carbon’s Class of 2009 is hosting a launch party on Friday, May 1st at Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall. They have created a website for 20 organizations & recreational activities in Carbon County.
- The graduation program for the Leadership Carbon Class of 2009 will be held on Thursday, May 16th at Blue Ridge Country Club.
- Applications are available for Leadership Carbon’s Class of 2010 program.

Carbon County Partners for Progress will meet on Friday, May 15, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. for a general meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kristin Simmons