



ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Oversees general operations, finances, membership and administration of WSJC

Members: Barb Tartaglione, PRC - President
Sue Clark, workNet DuPage - Treasurer
Donna Pocius, YWCA- Secretary
Caren Musembi, Ray Graham – Member at Large
Mary Zienty, Bridge Communities-Member at Large

Accomplishments 2015

1. Retention - Lost three members due to staff and employment program cuts, but three former members rejoined and three new potential agencies have expressed interest in joining.
2. Financial Oversight - Current reserves are over \$2200 and will be used for professional development of job coaches and a 2016 employer recognition event.
3. Leadership Development- A transition and succession plan has been developed and will be a primary goal for 2016.
4. Strong Partnerships with Employers and Government Stakeholders - Established an active job posting board for member agencies and employers through our Google Group. Continued partnership with Chicago Jobs Council and through the Advocacy Committee provides awareness and support for legislative initiatives related to our mission at both state and federal levels.
5. Committee Oversight - All three committee have accomplished their 2015 goals for professional development, client needs and advocacy.

ADVOCACY and PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Advocates and creates awareness of public policy issues related to employment for WSJC target population.

Members: Chris Rose, PACE Suburban Transit
Debbie Lunger, People's Resource Center
John Slusarski, Loaves and Fishes
Sue Clark, workNet DuPage
Barb Tartaglione – Peoples Resource Center

1. Identified mission related legislation from Illinois Commission on the Elimination of Poverty to track on an ongoing basis. Partnered with CJC to support legislation based on SNAP Employment & Training and Ex-offender employment programs.
2. Promoted WIA youth programs, Career Connect manufacturing programs, and IT pathways programs offered by Tech Services for disadvantaged workers.
3. Held presentation from CJC to explain WIOA. Ongoing communication from Sue Clark, Director of WDD for DuPage regarding progress of legislation rollout .
4. Supported legislation to increase minimum wage and outreach to resolve state budget crisis especially cuts to child care and domestic violence programs.
5. Ongoing transportation support through PACE and Care for Cars programs

CLIENT NEEDS COMMITTEE

Identifies and addresses the unique barriers to employment for WSJC target population

Members: Sarah Breithaupt - Lisle Township
Sam Denton – LDS Employment
Gail Foster - Poised for Success
Lourdes Holguin – National Able
Jenna Holzberg – National Able
Jill Kimak – People's Resource Center
Barb Tartaglione – People's Resource Center

Client Needs Committee (continued)

Accomplishments 2015

1. Provided presentation from National Able and Goodwill's Workforce Connection regarding demographics, employment barriers, best practices, and resource information for older adult and long term job seekers.
2. Developed a list of referral sources for job seekers experiencing depression and anxiety (often due to long term unemployment), as well as suggested interventions.
3.
 - A. Promoted the workNet *My Way* program and Tech Services IT training for disadvantaged youth and adult job seekers, funded by WIA to prepare for living wage jobs.
 - B. Encouraged workNet coaches to refer low income job seekers to the People's Resource Center to upgrade math/reading skills to pass aptitude assessments leading to approval for WIA funded training.
 - C. Promoted MOS computer training offered at the People's Resource Center for job seekers.
 - D. Identified occupations pursued by low income applicants through workNet, using WIA funding.
4. Introduced the *Get Hired Not Fired* workbook to WSJC members to discuss employability (personal) skills and increase use of this resource with job seekers.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Identifies training/development needs and resources for service providers and agency clients

Members: Peggy Radke, Family Shelter Services, Chair
Carol Garcia, Literacy DuPage
Jodi Fegter, Bridge Communities
Leslie Lantow, Waubensee Community College

Accomplishments 2015

1. Analyzed member feedback from annual meeting and on-line survey to develop topics for general membership meetings. Invited content experts to provide presentations on requested topics which included the following; Dealing with Anxiety and Depression; WIOA Update; Effective Job Search Strategies for Older Workers and Long Term Unemployed; and Employer Panel
2. Shared and documented best practices used by members to overcome barriers and increase employability for disadvantaged job seekers.
3. Increased networking opportunities, which had been a frequent request from members through round table exercises for *Get Hired Not Fired*, Annual Meeting topic discussion, strategies to deal with client depression/anxiety and the full day CJC workshop (*Motivating and Retaining Clients*).
4. Increased member communication through increased use of WSJC Google Group, development of an on-line event calendar, and job postings for clients and job coaches.