Agenda - October 23, 2008

NoRTEC
AGENDA
WIB AND GOVERNING BOARD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008
9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
MT. SHASTA RESORT
MT. SHASTA, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JULY 24, 2008 (ACTION)

The minutes from the July 24, 2008, meeting are attached: Minutes

Recommended Action:

WTB approval of the July 24, 2008, minutes, with revisions if needed, as posted.

Governing Board approval of the July 24, 2008, minutes, with revisions if needed, as posted.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (ACTION)

Recommended Action:

WTB approval of the agenda, with revisions if needed, as mailed.

Governing Board approval of the agenda, with revisions if needed, as mailed.

5. WIB APPOINTMENTS (ACTION)

There are current four vacancies on the NoRTEC WIB. There are three private industry seats (one from Sierra County and two from Nevada County), and one "At-Large" organized labor seat.

A nomination has been received from the Sierra County Chamber of Commerce to nominate Patricia Hall, a Wells Fargo Bank Manager in Downieville for the Sierra County private industry seat.
Nomination Letter

Application

If nominations are received for any of the other three seats prior to the meeting, they will be presented from the floor for Governing Board consideration.

**Recommended Action:**

_Governing Board appointment of Patricia Hall to fill the private industry seat in Sierra County._

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT (INFORMATION)**

Members of the public will be invited to make brief comments regarding any aspect of NoRTEC business.

7. **PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT (ACTION)**

M. Piller will present the Program Committee Report.

1. **Program Monitoring**

   There have been no monitoring visits to the WIA Service Providers since the last meeting.

2. **State Monitoring**

   The

3. **Client Numbers**
   1. One Stop Centers - [Job Seekers Accessing One-Stop Centers](#)
   2. WIA Enrollments - [Job Seekers Enrolled in the WIA Program](#)
   3. Client Exits - [Outcome Information On Customers Leaving The Programs](#)
   4. Core Service - [One Stop Center Utilization Information](#)

4. **Employer Service** - [One Stop Center Employer Service Information](#)

5. **Contract Performance**
   1. WIA Service Provider Contract Performance - Adult Programs
   2. WIA Service Provider Contract Performance - Youth Programs

As agreed, NoRTEC has not focused a lot of attention on the details of participant performance since WIA was implemented, choosing instead to focus on meeting local business needs. Staff do, however, monitor service provider
performance against objectives written into the contracts (on a quarterly basis), including cost per enrollment, placement rates, and a variety of program quality measures including average wage at placement. Generally, if a service provider is not meeting contract objectives at the end of a quarter, they are required to submit a corrective action plan. NoRTEC, does not, however, require corrective action plans at the end of the first quarter. Performance after only three months of operation is not generally a reliable indicator of how the remainder of the year will progress. There are no areas of concern at this time.

The performance report also includes information on MCLAUS VI (Multiple Closures, Layoffs and Unemployment Services), and the LVN-RN program (LVNs upgrading their skills and license to that of an RN).

- MCLAUS V began on October 1, 2007, and will end on March 31, 2009. This "special project" funding is to serve dislocated workers (primarily those that were laid off due to a substantial layoff or business closure).
- LVN-RN STEP-UP program began on February 1, 2007, and will end December 31, 2008. NoRTEC is requesting a no-cost extension of this grant to June 30, 2009.

3. WIA Business Services Performance

This website has training opportunities for local business (Website Initiative, Internet Classroom), and a number of reports on business service usage, events and outcomes (Business Services Usage, Internet Learning Usage, Business Websites, the Community Coordinator Reports, and the most recent Market All showing number of services and market share).

5. Plant Closure Update

There have been several hundred plant closures and over 12,000 laid off in the eleven county area of NoRTEC since we started tracking in PY 2000. The plant closure web site address is updated as additional closures occur. There have been over 50 plant closures since our last meeting, and more than 795 workers have been laid off. To view the report, click on the link below, and enter ">= " and "07/01/08" in the "Date Closed" field.

Plant Closure Update

6. "Headline" Program Reports

What's Happening? - Each of the Program Directors will take a few minutes to share some aspect of their program (accomplished, current or future) with the WIB and Governing Board members.

Following are direct links to the Community Coordinator reports received for the quarter ending September 30, 2008:

(Note: If the link does not take you directly to the report for the July-September quarter, look for a menu selection on the web page entitled Community Coordinator or Community Coordinator Reports.)
Butte PIC (Butte County)
Rural Human Services (Del Norte)
Alliance for Workforce Development (Lassen)
Alliance for Workforce Development (Modoc)
Butte PIC (Nevada County)
Alliance for Workforce Development (Plumas)
Alliance for Workforce Development (Sierra)
Smart Business Resource Center (Shasta)
STEP (Siskiyou)
Job Training Center of Tehama County
Smart Business Resource Center (Trinity)

A few highlights from this quarter's reports are:

- **Butte County** - Butte's One Stops have been working with local employers and Butte College to offer an intensive training course in ASP.net programming. ASP.NET is a web application framework developed and marketed by Microsoft that programmers use to build dynamic web sites, web applications, and web services. Local employers need individuals trained in this application, and the One Stops and Butte College worked to set-up a course. The class will take place Mondays and Wednesdays, in the evening from October 6 through November 19, 2008.

- **Del Norte County** - The Workforce Center advertised and organized a one-day hiring event for the new Walgreens store scheduled to open in Crescent City in mid-November 2008. More than 180 applicants showed up for the event, and four regional Walgreen's managers conducted interviews with the interested applicants. The Crescent City manager was pleased with the turn-out and the ease with which Workforce Center staff handled the event and had this to say: "The Workforce Center staff managed all the applicants and arrangements. This allowed us to focus on meeting potential employers. Fantastic!"

- **Lassen County** - Over the past several months, through contact with their employer community, AFWD learned of a shortage of certified welders. In an effort to meet the needs of these employers, AFWD partnered with Lassen Community College to recruit, enroll, and train individuals in this field. Ten individuals were enrolled at the college and will complete their certification in December. AFWD will continue working with these individuals as some will be looking for immediate job placement upon completion of their training while others are planning to continue with their training and earn an AS Degree in Welding Technology.

- **Modoc County** - AFWD in Modoc County is working on developing a partnership with the Modoc County Microenterprise Project which seeks to provide skills and business loan opportunities to target income individuals (entrepreneurs) who have a strong desire to start their own small business. This type of project is what the region's WIRED project is looking to foster, so AFWD is excited about the opportunity to tie WIRED activities in with local efforts.

- **Nevada County** - Services to Nevada County job seekers and employers under the NoRTEC Umbrella began on July 1,
2008. More than 50 individuals a day are accessing the services at the new One Stop Center. In mid-October, the One Stop will move to a new building in Grass Valley which will give better exposure and make the array of available services more visible to both job seekers and businesses. Three new business service programs will be offered during the second quarter of the program year including Business Counseling Services (for businesses who are struggling and might be in danger of closing or downsizing), a "Return to Nevada County" Program that will work on outreach to former Nevada County youth to try and encourage them to come back and start a business, and the "Entrepreneurial Boot Camp" Program that has been launched in several of the other NoRTEC Counties. The program has hit the ground running and we are excited to have them become a part of NoRTEC.

- **Plumas County** - AFWD continues their training relationship with Plumas Bank. In late September, AFWD facilitated a training for bank employees on "Attitude and Motivation." This training delves into the heart of customer services, discussing the important concepts that will motivate staff to excel in their job. Attendees learned to take accountability for their own attitude, discovered how it affects those around them, and discussed tips for maintaining a positive attitude and dealing with negative people.

- **Sierra County** - A local small businesswoman has great things to say about the help she has received from the Sierra Work Connection (AFWD) and the Sierra Economic Development Corporation. Vicki's Blue Moon Bakery, located in Loyalton, opened in November 2007. In December, the owner attended a "Financing Your Business" workshop in Susanville (the workshop was hosted by AFWD), and learned about local resources available to her. She has since worked with Sierra Work Connection's Dianna Simar and Brent Smith of the Sierra Economic Development Corporation, and says the assistance she has received thus far has been invaluable. She plans to continue working with both entities.

- **Shasta County** - The Smart Business Resource Center and Shasta Biz partner agencies sponsored two business resource seminars in July and September. Topics included hiring/recruiting assistance, preparing Business Plans, business financing, Labor Market Information, federal and state tax incentive programs, and subsidized training programs. More than 65 businesses attended these events.

- **Siskiyou County** - A project in Siskiyou County will soon be underway. Roseburg Forest Products is planning to install a 15 megawatt turbine-generator, cooling tower, superheater, and electrical substation to produce combined heat and power. This will be the first new biomass power facility in California since the early 1990s. The plant will augment its fuel with forest thinning from private and public landowners throughout the county. The staffing of this project will create new jobs in the Steam Plant, and will result in dollars being spent in Siskiyou County for taxes, wages, equipment and various types of support. The electrical energy generated by this plan will improve the power factor in the area and potentially reduce the frequent local power outages. Roseburg has been a model "community friendly" business, and they are to be congratulated on their commitment to the county and their perserverance in developing a "green" alternative energy project.

- **Tehama County** - For the fifth year in a row, the Job Training Center and Business One Stop Services, the Red Bluff Daily News, Shasta College and the Chambers of Commerce in Red Bluff, Corning, Gerber, and Los Molinos partnered to celebrate "Expect the Best Customer Service Week" in Tehama County. Check out the activities conducted during this successful event by clicking on the link to the Community Coordinator Report!

- **Trinity County** - A local businesses reaped the rewards of working with the Smart Center in their area. A local bar and restaurant that opened in September came to the Smart Center for help finding employees. The owners were concerned
they would not be able to find a chef in a town as small as Weaverville. Not a problem—Smart found them a chef! Smart also placed three bartenders, two dishwashers, a prep cook, and three waitstaff.

Please take a few minutes to read the reports from all eleven counties. They are informative and fun. Our Community Coordinators are putting a lot of work into keeping you informed. We like to let them know how much we appreciate their efforts.

7. **One Stop Business Services**

All the NoRTEC counties have developed local business services websites that present their local business services program:

- Butte
- Modoc
- Shasta
- Tehama
- Del Norte
- Nevada
- Sierra
- Trinity
- Lassen
- Plumas
- Siskiyou

8. **WIRED Update (Information)**

Stewart Knox, NoRTEC WIRED Project Director, will provide an update on WIRED activities in the region, including the December 4, 2008, event "Accelerating Renewable Energy."

9. **Staff Training (Information)**

   1. **Service Provider Staff Training and Development**

   B. Austin, NoRTEC Program Services Director, provided the following training during the first quarter of PY 2008/2009:

   - Facilitated discussion sessions at AFWD's retreat for front-line staff on July 21-23, 2008. Retreat sessions focused on key AFWD program issues, including strategic planning.
   - Provided a half-day review/planning session at the Job Training Center of Tehama County on August 20, 2008. This session focused on a review of Dislocated Worker eligibility, and staff discussion regarding OJT/customized training options, and Youth Literacy and Numeracy issues and potential new strategies.
   - Provided Nevada County with their first staff training on August 27, 2008. This half-day session focused on MIS, with an introduction to NoRTECs Staff and Business web sites. Additional training has been requested and will be provided in the near future.
   - Provided a two day training and follow-up workshop to AFWD on August 28-29, 2008. The workshop sessions focused on an overview of WIA program eligibility and common measures for new staff, and on the overall progress AFWD is making toward implementation of effective and efficient business and program services.
   - Facilitated a two-day discussion session with RHS staff and management on September 30-October 1, 2008. This session was a follow-up to several youth/adult program design and implementation planning sessions that Austin has conducted over the last year for RHS staff and management.
2. **NoRTEC Staff Development**

   B. Austin attended the California Workforce Association's Workforce Policy and Leadership Conference on September 2-4, 2008, in Monterey, California. Conference presentations focused primarily on ways to be innovative in a bureaucracy. Not surprisingly, NoRTEC's strategic agility has helped us stay way ahead of the game!

   1. K. Schmitz will provide a brief update on Youth Council activities.
   2. The WIB will be asked to approve the Youth Council membership: [Youth Council Roster](#)

   **Recommended Action:**

   **WIB approval of the proposed Youth Council members.**

   **Recommended Action:**

   The Program Committee recommends approval of the First Quarter Program Committee Report

   **WIB approval of the First Quarter Program Committee Report.**

   **Governing Board approval of the First Quarter Program Committee Report.**

8. **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (ACTION)**

   B. Hamby, Finance Committee Chair, will present the Finance Committee report.

   1. **PY 2008/2009 Funding (Information)**

      NoRTEC currently has $14,664,745 in available funds for the PY 2008/2009 Program Year. An additional $3,893,000 in funding has been requested. If this funding is received, NoRTEC will have $18,557,745 in available funding for the 2008/2009 Program Year. This would be an increase of $110,683 over PY 2007/2008 Program Year funding.

      | Project | Funds Available from July 1, 2008 | Additional Funds Requested | Total |
      |---------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
      | Adult   | $3,206,458                      | $0                        | $3,206,458 |

Preliminary Fourth Quarter Financial Reports for PY 2007/2008 were presented at the July 2008, WIB and Governing Board meeting. The final reports presented for approval here include some minor changes, but the final reports are not substantively different than the preliminary reports.

1. Final PY 2007/2008 Contracts Summary
No changes.

2. Final PY 2007/2008 Service Provider Contract Modifications

No changes.


Service Provider expenditures were adjusted to reflect final closeout expenditure reporting to NoRTEC. No significant changes.


Some changes to individual line-items. Total Administrative Entity expenditures remain within the budgeted amount.

5. Final PY 2007/2008 NoRTEC WIB and Governing Board Expenditure Report

Minor changes to individual line-items with total expenditures remaining within budgeted amounts.

Recommended Action:

The Finance Committee recommends approval of the final PY 2007/2008 Fourth Quarter Finance Reports.

WIB approval of the final PY 2007/2008 Fourth Quarter Finance Reports.

Governing Board approval of the final PY 2007/2008 Fourth Quarter Finance Reports.

   1. PY 2008/2009 Contracts Summary (Information)

   This report shows the total amount of funding in contracts with the State, the source of that funding and its allocation within NoRTEC for the 2008/2009 program year. As of September 30, 2008, NoRTEC had a total of $14,664,745 available in State contracts for the 2008/2009 program year. This report includes only amounts available in the current year. Amounts expended in prior years are not included.

   2. PY 2008/2009 Service Provider Contract Modifications

   This report shows the changes between June 30, 2008, and September 30, 2008, in the service provider contract amounts available for expenditure in the current program year. This report shows only contract amounts available in the current year. Contract amounts expended in prior years are not included.
The only contract modifications during this period were the addition of new 2008/2009 program year funding. These amounts include any unspent funds carried forward from the prior year. See report for detail.


   This report shows each subcontractor's total available balance for the program year (July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009), the cumulative expenditures for the quarter ended September 30, 2008, and the remaining balance at September 30, 2008, for each specific funding title and program type. This report shows only contract amounts available in the current year. Contract amounts expended in a prior year are not included.

   At the end of the first quarter, all service provider expenditures were within 10% of the required expenditure rate. There are no items of concern.

   Background: NoRTEC service providers are generally required to spend 80% of each year's allocation by the end of the program year. For the convenience of monitoring, NoRTEC uses a 20% per quarter expenditure rate as a guide for assessing expenditures throughout the fiscal year (20% first quarter, 40% second quarter, 60% third quarter and 80% final quarter). A corrective action plan (an explanation from the service provider of how they intend to utilize the funds by the end of the funding period) is automatically required from a service provider if quarterly expenditures vary by more than 10% from the quarterly target rate. The required expenditure rates apply to regular funding titles only and do not apply to special projects.

   "Excess" funds may be voluntarily returned by a service provider or recaptured by NoRTEC if it appears that a service provider will not be able to effectively utilize them by the end of the funding period. These funds are then redistributed to other NoRTEC service providers demonstrating a greater need, or returned to the State if they cannot be effectively utilized within the consortium. Early detection and correction of expenditure problems is important because it allows time for the funds to be put to good use by service providers in other consortium counties. In addition, the effective use of funds directly affects NoRTEC's ability to secure additional funding in future years.


   This report shows the Administrative Entity (AE) expenditures against the annual line item budget for the quarter ended September 30, 2008. At September 30, 2008, the NoRTEC Administrative Entity had expended 23% of its Operating budget and 17% of its Other Projects budget.

   There are no items of concern.

5. **PY 2008/2009 NoRTEC WIB and Governing Board Expenditure Report**
This report shows the WIB and Governing Board expenditures against the annual line item budget for the quarter ended September 30, 2008. At September 30, 2008, the WIB/Governing Board expended 16% of its total budget.

There are no items of concern.

**Recommended Action:**

The Finance Committee recommends approval of the PY 2008/2009 First Quarter Finance Reports.

**WIB approval of the PY 2008/2009 First Quarter Finance Reports.**

**Governing Board approval of the PY 2008/2009 First Quarter Finance Reports.**

4. **NoRTEC Fiscal Monitoring (Information)**

On-site fiscal and procurement monitoring of AFWD (Lassen, Modoc, Plumas and Sierra) was conducted in September. There were no finding or items of concern.

5. **State Fiscal and Procurement Monitoring of NoRTEC (Information)**

The State conducted the current year's Fiscal and Procurement monitoring of NoRTEC during the week of April 7, 2008. The EDD monitor visited the NoRTEC Administrative Office as well as the administrative offices of the Butte PIC. Results will be communicated at the January meeting (as of the posting of this agenda, a final report has not been issued).

**Recommended Action:**

The Finance Committee recommends approval of the First Quarter Finance Committee Report.

**WIB approval of the First Quarter Finance Committee Report.**

**Governing Board approval of the First Quarter Finance Committee Report.**

9. **STATUS OF FUNDING APPLICATIONS (UPDATE/ACTION)**

1. **Prior Approval**
   1. **STEM** - Still no word, but staff is still hopeful.
   2. **National Emergency Grant** - This application was for funding to respond to the numerous wildfires in Northern California. It will not be funded.

2. **New Applications**
   1. **Young Parents Demonstration Program** - DOL will fund up to $1 million for demonstration grants that target the
employment and training needs of young parents. The Young Parents Demonstration program is to provide educational and occupational skills training leading to family economic self-sufficiency to both mothers and fathers, and expectant mothers ages 16 to 24. Projects funded will be encouraged to serve young parents in high-risk categories, including those who are court-involved, in the child welfare or foster care system, homeless, or victims of child abuse.

**Recommended Action:**

*WIB approval of NoRTEC staff submitting an application to DOL for up to $1 million to fund a "Young Parents Demonstration program."

*Governing Board approval of NoRTEC staff submitting an application to DOL for up to $1 million to fund a "Young Parents Demonstration program."

2. **YouthBuild Grant** - DOL will fund up to $1.1 million for YouthBuild grants, to be used to provide disadvantaged youth with the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in occupations in high demand and post-secondary education and training opportunities; opportunities for meaningful work and service to their communities; and opportunities to develop employment and leadership skills and a commitment to community development among youth in low-income communities. As part of their programming, YouthBuild grantees will tap the energies and talents of disadvantaged youth to increase the supply of permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals and low-income families and to help youth develop the leadership, learning, and high-demand occupational skills needed to succeed in today's global economy.

**Recommended Action:**

*WIB approval of NoRTEC staff submitting an application to DOL for up to $1.1 million to fund a "YouthBuild" grant.

*Governing Board approval of NoRTEC staff submitting an application to DOL for up to $1.1 million to fund a "YouthBuild" grant.

3. **Community-Based Job Training Grants** - DOL will fund up to $2 million for Community-Based Job Training Grants to support workforce training for high-growth/high-demand industries through the national system of community and technical colleges. Funds will be awarded to individual community and technical colleges, community college districts, state community college systems, and One-Stop Career Centers to support or engage in a combination of capacity building and training activities for the purpose of building the capacity of community colleges to train individuals for careers in high-growth/high-demand industries in the local and/or regional economies.

**Recommended Action:**

*WIB approval of NoRTEC staff submitting an application to DOL for up to $2 million to fund a "Community-Based"
"Job Training" grant

**Governing Board approval of NoRTEC staff submitting an application to DOL for up to $2 million to fund a "Community-Based Job Training" grant.**

4. **California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) Initiative** - EDD will fund up to $500,000 per project to implement intervention and prevention strategies, including job training, supportive services, education and placement for targeted youth. They want strategies to be comprehensive and community focused, providing a holistic approach to serving youth—linking them to career pathways in high wage/high growth industries or in an occupation with future career advancement opportunities.

**Recommended Action:**

**WIB approval of NoRTEC staff submitting an application to EDD for up to $500,000 to fund a "CalGRIP" grant.**

**Governing Board approval of NoRTEC staff submitting an application to EDD for up to $500,000 to fund a "CalGRIP" grant.**

5. **MCLAUS VII** - NoRTEC staff are seeking permission to submit a proposal to EDD for up to $2 million to serve dislocated workers. In just this last quarter, we have documented 57 closures resulting in 795 layoffs.

**Recommended Action:**

**WIB approval of NoRTEC staff submitting an application to EDD for up to $2 million to fund "MCLAUS VII," a dislocated worker program.**

**Governing Board approval of NoRTEC staff submitting an application to EDD for up to $2 million to fund "MCLAUS VII," a dislocated worker program.**

10. **PLAN MODIFICATION (ACTION)**

NoRTEC submitted the original five year WIA plan in April 2000, for the period July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2005. This plan, originally meant to cover a five year period, has been granted a fourth, one year extension by the California Workforce Investment Board, pending WIA reauthorization legislation.

Each year during the planning cycle, the NoRTEC plan is "modified" to incorporate new funding levels for the upcoming program year, and to plan services to clients and employers in our eleven county area. As part of the modification process, NoRTEC's local programs advertise and hold public meetings to discuss their local areas plans for WIA funding, and allow for a 30 day comment period. The programs are holding local public meetings, and the 30 day comment period will be over by the end of November.
The final step in the plan modification process is to obtain WIB and Governing Board approval.

The plan modification for Program Year 2008/2009 can be accessed by going to the NoRTEC home page (http://ncen.org), selecting "WIB and Governing Board Orientation" from the drop-down menu. Then, click the "Workforce Investment Act" folder, the "NoRTEC Plan" folder, and (finally) the Nineth Year Mod folder.

**Recommended Action:**

*WIB approval of the Program Year 2008/2009 plan modification, provided no public comments are received within the 30 days comment period that would require modification of the information as posted.*

*Governing Board approval of the Program Year 2008/2009 plan modification, provided no public comments are received within the 30 days comment period that would require modification of the information as posted.*

11. **FURTHER NoRTEC EXPANSION (Action)**

On April 28, 2008, the No RTC Governing Board met to discuss their member counties and whether or not to accept any more into the NoRTEC Joint Powers Agreement. Here is a summary of the pros and cons identified by the Governing Board for accepting additional counties into the NoRTEC consortium.

**Pros**
1. Stable funding base for NoRTEC administration
2. More political clout
3. More funding opportunities
4. Providing service for under-served areas
5. Spreading the Business First/Economic Development approach over a larger area

**Cons**
1. Stretching staff too thin
2. New county may try to dominate program direction and distribution of funding
3. New county may not be compatible, causing tension and disruption
4. More counties will make the board too big to manage

Compatibility, primarily expressed as a desire to adopt the NoRTEC philosophy of "Business First," was a key consideration, as was NoRTEC staff capacity. The concensus was to put any further expansion on hold pending a discussion with the WIB, and to make this an agenda item for the October retreat.
One related item discussed was to reduce the size of the WIB by reducing the representation from three to two WIB members per county.

12. SMALL BUSINESS UPDATE (INFORMATION)

Ginne Mistal will provide a brief update on items of interest to Small Business.

13. OLD BUSINESS (INFORMATION)

Old Business items may be brought up for discussion, at the pleasure of the NoRTEC WIB/Governing Board members.

14. NEW BUSINESS (DISCUSSION)
   1. The next WIB and Governing Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2009, in Redding.
   2. Additional New Business items may be brought up for discussion, at the pleasure of the NoRTEC WIB/Governing Board members.

15. ADJOURNMENT

NoRTEC is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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