

## **LA CROSSE COUNTY W-2 COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

La Crosse County Human Services

Administrative Conference Room

7:45 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jodi Widuch, Beverly Mach, Nicole Johnson, Tom Miller

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Nancy Wagner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Nevin Xiong, Jackie Helgeson, Paula Egge, Lindsey Schwarz-Nichols, Deb Suchla, Sean Young, Minute Recorder, Nancy Gardner, unable to attend

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Joan Halverson, Ya Vang, Linda Short (W2 Staff)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 7:45 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the May 17, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

None

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

None

### **Poverty Task Force Update/Community Collaboration Committee**

Bev Mach gave an update of the Community Collaboration Committee. Chris Crye had a meeting at the north side police center where 211 gave a demonstration of their information and referral program. There was no internet connection at the site, so the presentation was done with handouts. Another presentation by La Crosse County Human Services Economic Support Supervisor, Tom Miller, is scheduled for today at the Neighborhood Community Church. They are hoping to give mentors or persons who work with persons in need more information about the services that are available to people in the community.

### **W2 UPDATE**

Tom Miller gave an update of the W2 Program and changes that have taken place and changes upcoming. W2 payments will be reduced by \$20 a month and the sanction amount per hour will go down to \$5.00 per hour. The 24 month and 60 month clocks for persons on W2 will be returning. Caretaker of a newborn has gone from 12 weeks to 8 weeks.

### **W2 CASE WORKERS DISCUSSION OF THEIR ROLES, CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES**

Joan Halverson, Ya Vang and Linda Short explained their roles in W2 and the clients they serve. Linda has been working to find clients new skill sites and has been very successful. Joan and Ya are seeing more people with multiple barriers that make it more difficult to place and find jobs. Criminal backgrounds seem to be more common and also make it more difficult in finding employment.

## **AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

Approval of November 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes  
Public Input  
Chairperson's Report  
Community Collaboration Committee Update  
W2 Program Update

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 7:45 a.m. at La Crosse County Human Services, Administrative Conference Room. Future meetings will be: February 14, May 8, August 14, and November 6.**

The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next committee meeting.

Tom Miller, Recorder