WORKER RETRAINING / FINANCIAL AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

December 2, 2010
12:00 pm – Board Room

The members in attendance were: Kamaria Al-Harazi, Linda Weir, Kimberly Cambern, Sherrill Koagel, Marsha Major, Dave Cunningham, Sue Koeller, Sheila Rubio, Jennifer Fenske and Stephanie Tschanz.

Introductions were made and meeting minutes from the previous advisory committee meeting were passed out.

A College update was provided by Dave Cunningham. Budget cuts for this fiscal year are 4.5% and for the upcoming biennium, 35%, compared to the last biennium. This cut is across colleges and may lead to structural changes and more collaboration among the colleges. The College is emphasizing its virtual/online college to expand its international reach.

A Financial Aid update was provided by Linda Weir. The college had a much bigger Worker Retraining budget to work with this year: $572,000 versus $286,000 last year. Worker Retraining funded 153 students for summer quarter (a slight decrease from last year) and 176 students for fall quarter, which is a huge jump from last year. Most of the remaining monies are expected to be spent on winter quarter tuition. Kim Cambern added that the numbers of students receiving Worker Retraining services are much higher: 300 for summer and 490 for fall. A discussion was started as to how these numbers compare to other colleges in the area. North Seattle CC splits up their Worker Retraining monies equally among the quarters. They have a cap of $1,100 per student, per quarter.

The next discussion concerned any joint training concerns or problems. Sherrill Koegel stated that she will set aside funding for spring quarter in case Worker Retraining is out of money by then. Sue Koeller has been having ongoing problems with her computer at Shoreline. Also, partners were reminded that they are welcome to use the WorkForce Education copy machine.

The group discussed possible funding sources for certification tests through external sources. Sherrill, Marsha and Kamaria do pay for certifications for already established clients. Sue has limited funds and cannot pay large amounts for individuals. There was a discussion about the possibility and logistics of BFET paying for certifications. Factors include the wording of the contract, matching funds and how to issue payments. Linda Weir stated that she can look into the logistics.

Sherrill Koagel brought up the large number of Shoreline Worker Retraining students who are asked to attend the Training Resources workshop at North Seattle WorkSource. The partners were asked for lists of which training programs each of them can fund. Jennifer Fenske suggested that a checklist be created to determine which students are exempt from attending the Training Resources workshop.
Kimberly Cambern suggested that she could get together with Sherrill and Marsha to develop the questions for such a checklist.

The question was posed as to how partners would like to receive referrals. Kamaria indicated she’d like direct referrals. Marsha asked the group to send her the name and contact information of potential referrals via email. Sherrill pointed out that she has a pretty full caseload and may be involved with the nursing co-hort.

Sherril Koagel brought up a final training concern: To help students get back to work, can we somehow connect them with the employers who serve on advisory committees? Dave Cunningham suggested that College staff discuss this and revisit the topic with the Advisory Committee at a later date.

A UI/Telecenter update was provided by Stephanie Tschanz. Federal extension (EUC) recalculation were done over the past several days. Claimants will be sent letters letting them know which tier of EUC they are in and how many weeks of EUC and State extension (EB) they have remaining. For some, this will mean that benefits will run out earlier than originally calculated. They have the right to appeal these recalculation within 30 days. For those who have already collected all of their UI benefits, any overpayments that result from the recalculation will be waived. The telecenter has hired on 50 new agents to deal with the influx of calls in response to the recalculation letters. Additionally, the Federal extension program is scheduled to end on 4/30/11.

Funding availability updates were given by each of the partners. Sherrill Koagel indicated that funding is good and Pacific Associates is hiring three new staff. Marsha Major stated that she is in need of more clients. Sue Koeller is still taking new students at this time. Kamaria Al-Harazi indicated that she has funding for the Adult category.

Brief information about the new 55+ program (Reinvesting in Older Workers) was shared. The three populations that it covers are Limited English Proficiency, ex-offender and those with a disability. The College also has a new 50+ program with a full catalog of classes.

Kimberly Cambern also gave an update on training programs. Clean Energy is expected to be added to the Eligible Training Provider list within a week. The Zero Energy Building Practices certificate and the Clean Energy AAAS are being re-vamped. Both will be called ‘Clean Energy’.