



## Technical Working Group Meeting Notes

June 24, 2015

In Attendance: Alex Beck (BDCC), Jodi Clark (BDCC), Laura Sibia (BDCC), Jan Coplan (BDCC), HB Lozito (Green Mountain Crossroads/Bratt. Timeshare), Sue Graff (United Way Windham County), Kate O'Connor (Bratt. Chamber of Commerce), Megan LaFlam (Bellows Falls Chamber of Commerce), Prudence McKinney (VT State Dept. AHC Regional), Susan McMahon (WRC), Gretchen Havreluk (Town of Wilmington Econ. Dev.), Thara Fuller (21st Cent. Afterschool/Leland & Gray), Denise Mason (SEVCA), Chad Simmons (Building Bright Futures)

Welcome!

1. Why are we here – Connecting the dots with Regional Economic Development activities 10 minutes
  - a. Communicate
    - i. What we are working on
    - ii. Why you are important in our efforts
    - iii. If and how we might help you in your efforts
2. Introduce yourself, your organization, what are you working on that you are excited about – 3 minutes each
  - a. Laura/BDCC
    - i. Green building and services- mini industry-specific CED's (Cheshire County, Franklin County, Windham Region)
    - ii. SVBA (Southern Vermont Business Accelerator)- Entrepreneurial support systems (existing and desired), Cohort-based, peer-to-peer programming, more deliberately structured than SBD and SB Business Parks
      1. Will it be only for profit? What about Social Enterprise and Social Business? Market-driven nonprofit services?
    - iii. Regional Workforce Development
      1. Workforce Development Committee
        - a. 5-Year hiring inventory-30 businesses will 'provide' 3,300 jobs in the next 5 years
        - b. School programming surrounding professional development/employment opportunities
        - c. Barriers for connecting potential employees to jobs: Childcare, transportation, inability to commit to a full schedule, substance abuse/social/emotional challenges

- d. Is it because of negative experiences (either employers or employees with a company? How do underemployed folks get connected to the jobs that are available if they are not in college or otherwise connected to a system currently?
  - e. How can we build off of the success of the internship program to help citizens who aren't connected in a system? There is a disconnect between the human services training programs and the employers who have the jobs and also their own training programs.
  - f. SEVCA has been working with CCV with their Ready for Work program. (Transportation, Childcare, personal preparedness such as appropriate wardrobe for work)
  - g. Employers want a highly functioning employee. Not everyone who is here will fit that description right away. How do we support who is here to grow into the positions that are available at our employers?
  - h. What does Young Professional mean? Is it anyone who is 20-45? Is it someone fully employed?
  - i. Workforce Development is the Number 1 priority for SeVEDS.
- b. Chad (Building Bright Futures)
  - i. State Council-Advises Governor and Legislators about Early Childhood Policy
  - ii. Organize at the Regional Council Level
    - 1. SE Vermont liaison to the State Council level
      - a. Family-centered Business Policy
        - i. Livable wage as it affects early childhood development
        - ii. Family Leave
      - 2. Early Childhood Action Plan
- c. Thara (Afterschool programming)
  - i. Career initiative at Ieland and Gray
    - 1. Asking local businesses to send a trainer/presenter to classrooms
    - 2. Financial Literacy
    - 3. Entrepreneurism Studies
- d. HB (Green Mountain CrossRoads)
  - i. Developing/communicating safe and inclusive communities and environments
  - ii. Trainings and professional developments
    - 1. Cultural competencies
    - 2. "Getting to the Interviews"
  - iii. Rural Queer Futures Summit
- e. Prudence (VT Department of Health)
  - i. Public Health-oriented programming
    - 1. Dental Health support
    - 2. Healthy Community Design
      - a. Exercise Infrastructure
      - b. Support and encouragement to create bike/pedestrian spaces

### 3. Windham Opiate Response

- f. Susan (Windham Regional Commission)
  - i. Town technical assistance, planning, municipal shared services, serves as staff for included towns
    - 1. works with nonprofits for implementation
  - ii. Working crosstown and regional issues
  - iii. DATA AND MAPS!
    - 1. Brownfield 'opportunities'
- g. Sue (United Way of Windham County)
  - i. Health, Opportunity, Prosperity, and Education
    - 1. Umbrella vision used to invest in collective community programming
  - ii. 'P' focuses on low-to-moderate wage earning demographics
  - iii. Employer group meetings
    - 1. Free online programming- "core skills mastery"
- h. Gretchen (Wilmington Economic Development)
  - i. Turning the abandoned school into a community center
  - ii. The Gathering Place
  - iii. Potential Co-working Space
  - iv. Co-relocation of Fire/Police
  - v. Received VTA Grant to build IT infrastructure for home businesses
  - vi. Connecting to Fiber!
  - vii. Facade improvement
  - viii. Provided SB consulting
  - ix. Revolving Loan Fund
- i. Denise (SEVCA)
  - i. Microbusiness and asset development
  - ii. Career Expo in October
    - 1. Oriented towards slightly younger audience
  - iii. Financial Fitness (IDA) asset development
  - iv. Job readiness with CCV
- j. Kate (Brattleboro Chamber of Commerce)
  - i. Provides support for local businesses
  - ii. Provides information and knowledge about policy changes and opportunities
  - iii. B2B networking
  - iv. Notoriety as Community Resource
- k. Megan (Great Falls Regional Chamber)
  - i. Developing organizational infrastructure to facilitate membership and engagement
  - ii.

3. Break – 5 minutes

4. Next Steps

- a. How can we construct a regional system that allows us to opportunity to maximize regional collaboration, efficiency and effectiveness (Workforce Development System as example)
- b. Ongoing Activity/Work Sharing: How do we want to do this? Frequency of in person meetings, Google Doc/Drive information sharing? Google Group or other online resource/forum?
- c. Who else should be in this conversation with us?

Brattleboro Area Techies(Tech.)

- d. What more do we need/want to know?

What is the intention of this group? To move the CEDS forward.

Reporting on the outcomes of our meeting together.

- e. Next Meeting Date and location suggestions
  - i. Quarterly Meetings? Is that enough? YES!
  - ii. Monthly Check-in of “What you should know about what we are working on”
  - iii. What support do you need to make this happen? Structure for the discussion (CEDS connections)
  - iv. Creating a learning community surrounding specific topic areas (Call/Hangout)
    - 1. Healthy/Livable Communities
    - 2. Tech and Connectivity
    - 3. Equity and Access
    - 4. Entrepreneurial Activity
    - 5. Transferrable Skills
    - 6. Crosswalking what everyone is doing with what the CEDS are
    - 7. Business Recruitment (all business models)
    - 8. Telling the story of all kinds of businesses (including Nonprofits)

Action Steps moving forward:

1. SeVEDS (Jodi Clark) to send Doodle poll on when and where the next meeting should be in October. (Possibly Bellows Falls?)
2. SeVEDS to work on convening a learning community of this group. Jodi will reach out with questions about design and formats that will work for the group.