

Shifting Gears: Minnesota *FastTRAC*:
Training, Resources And Credentialing
for Pathways to Sustainable Employment



Systems Leadership Team
Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2008, 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Members present

Inez Wildwood, chair, Pradeep Kotamraju, Sharon LaComb, Steve Wagner, Richard Davy, Pat Thomas, Beverlee Mountain, Barry Shaffer, Rick Caligiuri, Beth Kadoun, Jane Samargia, Kathy Sweeney, Anne Olson, Ann Sessoms. Staff present: Anne Marie Leland (DEED), Mary Schmidt (DEED). Guest: Michael Murphy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships, Office of the Chancellor.

Decisions made

1. Four persons volunteered for the **FastTRAC incubator review committee**: Inez Wildwood, Beth Kadoun, Anne Olson, and Beverlee Mountain. Review packets were distributed and the review committee will convene on September 11 to decide on the most eligible preapplications. Barry Shaffer, Kathy Sweeney, Pradeep Kotamraju, Anne Leland and Mary Schmidt will also review the preapplications and sit on the review committee.
2. The **next meeting of the Systems Leadership Team** will be November 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at MDE, Roseville. Future meeting dates are: February 2, 2009, May 4, 2009, and July 13, 2009.

Discussion items

1. Inez presented the **history** of the Shifting Gears: MN FastTRAC planning period and the state's process for arriving at the implementation grant proposal to The Joyce Foundation. She also presented the **logic model** from The Joyce Foundation that undergirds the foundation's approach to working with five Midwestern states. (See attached Shifting Gears: MN FastTRAC powerpoint.) Inez clarified that The Joyce Foundation is more than a funder to this initiative. The foundation is actively engaged as a partner and advisor to help us be successful. In particular, the foundation is providing: (i) a \$500,000 one-year grant; (ii) active management and leadership by the Joyce Foundation Employment Program staff; plus (iii) technical assistance through the Center for Law and Social Policy, the Workforce Strategy Center, and a cadre of consultants.

2. Inez also clarified that the message received from Joyce consultants last week indicated we should plan as though Minnesota will meet its benchmarks for the first year grant and receive a second year implementation grant from the foundation.
3. Barry Shaffer and Pradeep Kotamraju presented the **goal, strategies, and collaborative teams** for the initiative. (See attached Shifting Gears: MN FastTRAC powerpoint.) Among the outputs from the initiative will be a state policy agenda and action plan for change. “Policy change” is defined as legislative, regulatory, administrative and data system improvements that help low wage, low skilled adult workers compete in the labor market.
4. The team discussed the expectations of the foundation around **data systems** improvements. Pradeep explained that the long term goal is that data increasingly informs state policies and decision-making with progress toward integrated data capabilities or improved connectivity across state systems in the interim period. During the one-year grant, the expectation is that we create awareness and commitment toward building integrated data capability.
5. **Michael Murphy**, guest, from the Office of the Chancellor, thanked those responsible for revitalizing the initiative. It is his expectation that the leadership team’s policy recommendations will bump up against the status quo and force our state systems to think differently about how we respond to today’s economic and labor market conditions characterized by a scarcity of quality workers.

Administrative matters

1. For those traveling from outside the metro, **travel reimbursement** forms will be processed by Florence Newton at the Office of the Chancellor. Her email is Florence.Newton@so.mnscu.edu. Her phone is 651-296-3906.