

C-TAC Advisory Meeting
Host: Kenai Job Center
April 15, 2008

MINUTES

Members Present: Fuzzy Cox, Michael Bernard, Sal Mattero, Val Ischi, Jeanna Carver, Bob Hammer, Marty Anderson, and Walt Ward.

Guests Present: Randy Ashford and Barb Roper

The meeting was held in the Kenai Job Center Fireweed conference room.

Val Ischi reported on the recent **Career Fair** that was held at the Peninsula Sports center. It was co-sponsored by the Clarion Newspaper and the Kenai Job Center. There were 824 people in attendance. Employers and job seekers were matching up as well as the adult Construction Academy recruitment took place.

There will be another **Job Fair** on May 12 at Kenai Peninsula College. It is sponsored by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Salamatof Tribal Council, KPBSD and KPC.

There will be several **summer opportunities** for youth this summer.

- There is a native art camp sponsored by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. All title seven eligible students 14 and older are invited. Transportation is available for over the water schools. It will take place the first part of June.
- A free summer construction academy for central peninsula students will be taking place from May 28 to June 13 at the Workforce Development Center in Kenai. Students must be a junior or senior next year to attend.
- Nanwalek will also have a summer construction academy the first two weeks in June. Youth from the ages of 14 to 22 may attend. There is no cost for attendance.

Barb Roper gave an updated report on the second session of the **After-School Construction Academy**. There are 26 students participating in the second session. The current programs that are up and running are:

- Workforce Development Center –welding and basic framing- a storage shed for the Kenai Senior Center is under construction
- SoHi-basic truss frame construction- a storage shed for the new SoHi soccer fields is being built
- Ninilchik-basic framing-a shelter for the Ninilchik Fair Grounds is being constructed. There will also be an Emergency Trauma Technician course starting soon.
- Homer-basic framing techniques- a portable cabin will be built
- Seldovia- welding training will be completed next week
- There will be Kenai Peninsula instructor meetings on April 17 and May 15
- There will be a statewide stakeholder meeting on May 8 and 9

Bob Hammer, Kenai Peninsula Builders Association provided a report on the **Adult Construction Academy**. They are under full swing with both a construction and plumbing section. There are 12 participants in the carpentry and 6 in the plumbing. Some of the students have already received job offers once they complete the training. It looks like funding will continue next year and up to 5 years. Next year's anticipated training areas may expand to include welding, wiring and drywall installation.

WIN-Workkeys program was used by the Job Center to help applicants for the Construction Academy remediate and develop academic skills to help their performance on the TABE placement test. The KPBSD will have three pilot sites that will be giving these tests this spring. Those sites are Nikiski Jr/Sr, Kenai Middle, and Kenai Central High School.

A **scholarship** review subcommittee was formed to select the recipient of the KPC and AVTEC tuition waivers. The selection process should be completed by next week. A big thank you is in order for KPC and AVTEC who have sponsored this tuition waiver to local youth for several years now.

Tech Prep classes are currently being offered where high school students can get college credit for their high school classes. The newest approved class is Early Childhood Development. Medical Terminology is pending.

Several KPBSD students attended the **CTSO** district and state conferences. The District conference was February 22nd at KPC and the State was March 27 through March 29 in Anchorage. Several medals were awarded to KPBSD students and 4 SoHi students were elected to state office. It is a goal to establish at least one CTSO club in each of the Peninsula High Schools.

The **By-Laws** for the C-TAC committee were handed out. Due to limited time at the meeting they will be discussed and modified if needed, at our fall meeting.

Discussion Points

- Youth First and Alaska Works grant funding looks like it will be available again next year. This funds our after school CTE programs. The Youth First will now be on a competitive grant basis.
- Are the construction academies only training students for training sake or is there employment at the end of the training? The ultimate goal is for employment but high school students may need additional training before they are job ready. Most students would be ready for entry level jobs if their age will allow them to do so.
- There are many barriers to youth going to work.
 - Age and child labor laws
 - Cost of required health and safety cards

- New Homeland Security restrictions for ports and shipping related workers.
 - Increased fuel prices for travel to the worksite
 - Past criminal record or driving violations
- There needs to be a bridge build between training and job placement. The Job Center can help.
- There will be a Non-Destructive Testing Academy that will provide training for 20 students from the state of Alaska. Students need to be at least 18 years of age and have a clean record. Upon completion of this training students will be able to be industrial inspectors.
- Job seekers need to be made aware that poor choices can follow them to the work site and can keep them from being employable. They must be able to pass a UA and have a clean driving record for many jobs.
- Perhaps there could be some industry scholarships to help students get the safety training needed to for employment.
- There is a need to get some additional members on the C-TAC committee. Perhaps someone from MAPTS or another safety training agency would be a good place to start.
- Since AVTEC is funded by the Alaska Dept. of Labor are there any grants or reduction in tuition for needs based students? If not how can post secondary training be made affordable to low income students? If it is funded by state tax dollars shouldn't there be tuition breaks for Alaskan residents?

The next meeting is scheduled for October 7 unless there is an emergency meeting needed to review Carl Perkins mini grants. The meeting location is yet to be determined.

We'd like to thank the Alaska Dept of Labor and the Kenai Job Center for hosting our meeting.