

NCSL Opportunities for Working Families Meeting State Action Plans

Minnesota

Years of Participation: 2011

2011 ACTION PLAN

Team Members

Representative Carol McFarlane

Facilitator: Angela Andrews

Priority Issues

Connecting K-12 education, higher education and workforce development.

Action Items & Next Steps

Connect all 3 issues to create a culture of lifelong learning, utilize education to become a productive citizen and gain the skills to compete.

- Start the discussion – Working during the interim to collaborate with stakeholders on legislative committees (K-12, higher education and labor) to have a joint hearing in 2012 session on topic.

Responsibilities

Rep. McFarlane will work with various stakeholders (executive branch, committee chairmen, legislators and workforce) to help start the discussion and collaborate on raising awareness and create ideas moving forward.

Information and Services

- Info from NCSL on how K-12, higher education and workforce development are connected - practices and policies from other states.
- Provide expert testimony and technical assistance at joint committee meeting in 2012 – also to connect with other experts (outside of NCSL) and with legislators on the committees.

NCSL Contacts

Mary Fairchild

Julie Bell

Additional Notes

Strengths:

- Smorgasbord meeting
- Magic act
- Collaboration
- Outcomes
- Efficiency
- Innovation

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Priority Issues:

Education→Instill values of lifelong learning, productive citizens, self-supporting, social skills, academic skills, work ethic

--2-pronged: workforce development (parents) and education for children (future workforce)→continual learning, adapting to changing job market, K-12/higher education divide-misalignment of expectations

Child Care→Opportunities for Working Families

Transportation→access-have job but not able to get to it-lifestyle you choose need to support it

Vibrant Economy→Respect workers, measure the success of a family?

Assets: early education, birthplace of charters, post-secondary (PSEO), P-20 Council, Choice for education, 4-year colleges, adult basic education, alternative learning (outcome based education), workforce council-library, good workforce initiatives, community college (better return on investments), vocation training (private for-profits)

Stakeholders: business community, foundation, municipalities-vibrant community, “hand up, not hand-out,” “skin in the game,” schools-shared vision

Barriers: money, funding/policy, streams across silos, transportation, day care/child care, personal time and sacrifice, BUT all have ROI in the long term, no long term vision/plan

Legislature Involvement:

-Start the discussion, look at shared vision—listening

-Interim work-2012 Joint Committee

-Be informed

-Cross-silos, working together

-Changing paradigm of workforce development

-Raising awareness to create ideas

-Collaborative-Executive, legislative, stakeholders, workforce

-Need buy-in

-Mindset change-new normal