

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Adult Education/Workforce Partnership Group Meeting
March 20, 2009**

Meeting Summary

Meeting attendees:

- Cheri Arfsten (Pikes Peak Community College)
- Laura Barela (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs)
- Yanci Beers (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)
- Barb Borland (CSU-Pueblo)
- Mike Boyd (Colorado Technical University)
- Terry Brubaker (Fort Carson)
- Jerry Fritz (Pikes Peak Community College)
- Jackie Harriman (DoD State Liaison Office)
- Kate Hatten (Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments)
- John Hill (Regis University)
- Terence Jackson, (Pikes Peak Workforce Center)
- Cedric B. Johnson (DeVry University)
- Greg Mitchell (Colorado Technical University)
- Todd Pickton (BBC Research & Consulting)
- Dana Rocha (UCCS)
- Erica Rollosson (UCCS)
- Josh Sidon (BBC Research & Consulting)

Growth Plan Phase 2 Scope of Work

After introductions, Kate Hatten provided an overview of the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan Phase 2 scope of work. She noted that the project timeframe is July 2008-December 2009. PPACG has contracted with BBC Research & Consulting (BBC) to conduct the bulk of data gathering and survey work for the Plan. Ms. Hatten introduced Todd Pickton and Josh Sidon who discussed the project tasks associated with adult education and workforce needs related to Fort Carson growth. Mr. Pickton stated that deliverables for this effort would include:

Growth projections for adult education and workforce training programs along with an assessment of the ability of current providers to meet projected demand, as well as recommendations linking community workforce needs and training/education programs for Soldiers and spouses.

Mr. Pickton identified the methods in BBC's scope of work that will be used to complete these deliverables. These methods include surveys to obtain more detailed demographic and education information on Soldiers and families and in-person interviews with various entities providing adult education and workforce services to Fort Carson Soldiers and spouses.

Jerry Fritz noted that the Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation recently completed a study of education and workforce issues (although without a specific military focus) and will provide that study to BBC. Mr. Pickton indicated that he and Dr. Sidon would be contacting entities to meet individually with them for the Phase 2 analysis.

Key Adult Education Issues

At the November 2008 meeting of the Adult Education/Workforce Partnership Group, attendees developed a list of key issues during a brainstorming session. This list (attached for reference) was distributed to the group for review and prioritization. Terry Brubaker read off each of the

issues and asked attendees to raise their hands if they considered the issue as one of their “highest” priorities. Issues that were identified most frequently as a high priority include:

- Support or champion the need for a state-of-the-art education facility on-post
- Identify the data and demographic information that schools could collect to better assess the military student’s needs, including:
 - What the Soldiers are looking for
 - Types of services
 - Career tracks for spouses
 - Will the Soldier/family member remain in the region
- Identify community workforce needs and match school programs with those needs
- Provide military members preparing to retire/separate with adequate skill training for a job in the civilian world
- Identify any unique curriculum needs for Soldiers and spouses
- Increase transferability of courses between institutions to include establishing additional collaboration agreements

It was noted that the full list contains some duplication or, in some cases, the issues are closely related and could be group together. It was further noted that some issues may be missing such as transferability of licensing requirements for spouses. Additional issues will be addressed as BBC conducts the data gathering and analysis for Phase 2. Mr. Pickton asked the group for insights regarding why the above issues are seen as high priority items. The group indicated that a larger, better equipped on-post facility is needed for a variety of reasons, including the fact that the current facility does not meet ADA requirements and is over capacity; also classrooms are not conducive to certain coursework, such as lab requirements.

Other factors that would assist schools, workforce training providers, and others include more data, particularly related to Soldier and spouse educational interests. Data on spouses have not generally been as well tracked as Soldier data, and additional information would help schools plan better for spouse-related education needs. Mr. Brubaker indicated that he has completed a needs assessment related to Fort Carson Soldiers and would inquire about sharing the results for the Phase 2 effort. Other sources of information that may be beneficial include surveys, needs assessments, and reports from other entities, such as the Pikes Peak Workforce Center and the state on labor market trends and job projections.

It was also noted that the post 9-11 GI Bill provides more alternatives, but also raises more questions about services that will be demanded and available to Soldiers and spouses. It was also noted that, while Fort Carson has grown, the number of education center staff has decreased markedly. Additional factors that will assist Soldiers and spouses include more transferability of credits and more coordination of enrollment processes. Factors that may hinder the ability to provide needed/desired programs include regulations, such as staffing requirements for nursing programs, and capacity issues, such as access to clinical programs.

BBC will utilize the information discussed and set up meetings with providers on an individual basis to gain further understanding of key issues, current and projected capacity, and future demand as BBC and PPACG conduct the research and analysis of Phase 2 of the Growth Plan.

Colorado NEG/BRAC Grant

Terence Jackson provided an overview of the BRAC grant, a two-year grant to provide job training related to Base Realignment and Closure. He noted that the federal government has relaxed some of the restrictions on the funding, enabling the Pikes Peak Workforce Center to expand training opportunities to serve Wounded Warriors and transitioning service members, as well as spouses. Only Fort Carson and Peterson Air Force Base personnel are eligible, and the grant expires at the end of June 2009. Mr. Jackson noted, however, that the actual training can continue beyond that timeframe, as long as the funds have been expended by the deadline. He provided brochures regarding the program for the group.

Other Business

Jackie Harriman indicated that HB 1054 (Looper), a Bill providing unemployment benefits for surviving spouses, was passed by the state legislature. Ms. Hatten indicated that PPACG is working with the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) to identify priority growth-related projects in the region that require (but have not received) federal funding. Ms. Hatten will provide Growth Plan participants with additional details when OEA requests additional projects for consideration.

The next steps for the Adult Education/Workforce component of the Growth Plan will be for BBC to conduct individual meetings and data gathering and analysis. Once preliminary information is available – anticipated for early fall – the partnership group will be reconvened to review and comment on the preliminary findings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.