



VISTA 2025 Goal 2:

Position Chester County as a magnet for attracting talent and a model for developing an employer ready workforce.

VISTA 2025 Goal 2 Team Meeting

November 29, 2017

Meeting Notes

Team Members Attending: Jennifer Duff, Trish Faidiga, Alisa Jones, Jim Nemes, Joe O'Brien, Angela Tekely, Ralf Weiser

Also Attending: Pat Bokovitz, Mike Grigalonis, Jim Lauckner David Sciocchetti, Gary Smith

Joe O'Brien

Welcomed those in attendance, noted that Kathi Cozzone was attending an event at CCIU and asked if there were any comments on the meeting notes from the previous meeting. None were presented.

David Sciocchetti

Noted that VISTA 2025 had been authorized by Chester County Commissioners in late 2014 and that implementation had been ongoing for close to three years since then. Indicated that the

draft progress report was intended to provide an update on the implementation of VISTA 2025 strategies from all five goals.

Added that the progress report was intended for general public consumption and designed to be visually attractive and easy to read and understand. Commented that the draft progress report documents significant progress on the implementation of the VISTA 2025 strategies.

Comments on Goal 2 Workforce Summit Slide

Jim Lauckner

Noted that work is ongoing on the nine recommended actions that were developed at the summit.

Comments on Goal 2 Career Days Slide

Jim Lauckner

Commented that Techie's Day helps showcase technology jobs for students.

Joe O'Brien

Noted that most schools are improving in their efforts to help students understand the requirements of the workforce.

Mike Grigalonis

Suggested that any additional programs that helped students understand their career options should be included.

Ralf Weiser

Noted that the Ascend program should be considered as a possible addition.

Comments on Goal 2 Improved Outreach Slide

Pat Bokovitz

Noted that the expanded range of programs available at the new center had generated an increase in traffic.

Jim Lauckner

Commented that more people moving back into the workforce and using available services also contributed to the increase.

David Sciocchetti

Moved to a discussion of the Goal 2 draft strategy status report. Noted that the process to date included a review of each Goal 2 strategy with a focus on assessing the level of implementation. Indicated that five categories had been established and color coded for easy recognition:

- Done/Ongoing (Green)
- Ongoing (Green)
- On Hold/Active (Yellow)
- On Hold (Yellow)
- Eliminate (Red)

Stated that the next step in the review process was feedback from the members of the Goal 2 team. Identified possible issues to consider, including:

- Accurate assessment of progress
- Strategies to be modified
- Strategies to be added
- Strategies to be eliminated
- Strategy responsibility
- Strategy resource source
- Suggest change in timeline
- Suggest change in goal location
- Suggest merger with other strategies

Commented that this was also a pre-cursor to Landscapes 3 to help identify overlap areas and areas of divergence.

Joe O'Brien

Noted that VISTA 2025 and Landscapes 3 coming together as part of a shared discussion could help lead to new solutions.

Ralf Weiser

Commented that this approach made sense as a kind of temperature check to see where we stand.

David Sciocchetti

Initiated review of individual strategies.

2.1.1 Status - (Workforce Summit) – Done/Ongoing

2.1.2 Status - (Assess Match of Employers with Education/Training) - Ongoing

Jennifer Duff

Asked whether the nine actions recommended at the workforce summit were incorporated in VISTA 2025.

Jim Lauckner

Responded that they were part of CCEDC's efforts to implement VISTA 2025.

Jennifer Duff

Suggested that it is important to get back to the business community to let them know how the nine items are being implemented.

Pat Bokovitz

Noted that the new Engage program should help with the assessment process.

Ralf Weiser

Commented on the importance of a proper focus on the issue of bringing workers and businesses together. Suggested energy be dedicated to the industry partnerships.

Gary Smith

Commented that the five existing industry partnerships are working well but that there are gaps such as financial services and life sciences.

2.1.3 Status - (Task Force on student preparation) – On Hold/Active

2.1.4 Status - (Next Generation Task Force) – On Hold/Active

David Sciocchetti

Noted that no task force had been established but Industry Partnerships and other programs were working to better align students with job requirements.

Joe O'Brien

Commented that a task force can be convened if it becomes necessary.

Alisa Jones

Suggested a focus on best practices rather than additional task forces.

Ralf Weiser

Noted the importance of preparing the next generation of workers for the realities of the workplace.

Joe O'Brien

Stated that the CCIU had a focus on working with millennials to bring them effectively into the workforce.

Jim Nemes

Noted that each new generation is the next workforce pipeline.

Pat Bokovitz

Commented that the county had just initiated a next generation workforce effort.

Angela Tekely

Described how Immaculata University had a senior citizen program that brought 500 senior citizens on campus. Noted that it produced an interesting dynamic that helped change mindsets and misconceptions.

Gary Smith

Commented that that might be a good story for Vista. Today

Jim Nemes

Reported that Penn State was holding a cross generational workshop in January.

2.2.1 Status - (Incumbent workers skills) – Ongoing

Pat Bokovitz

Noted that changes in the availability of state funding may impact the ability to provide training for incumbent workers.

Alisa Jones

Noted that a program established by La Comunidad Hispana was targeted at 100 first line supervisors in the mushroom industry to help them better manage a diverse workforce. The program was primarily private sector funded.

Joe O'Brien

Suggested that members of Goal Team 2 review the additional strategies that had not been covered and forward any comments.