

The Commercial Club of Chicago



Veterans Working Group Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2015

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF AGENDA

David Hiller

President and CEO, Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Meeting Overview

Welcome and Review of Agenda

David Hiller, President and CEO, Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Lightning Round 1.1.1

One person per organization, with one idea, speaking for one minute

Panel Presentations

Patricia Mayfield, *Facilitator*, Director - Illinois, Veterans' Employment & Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor
Richard Wuthrich, Statewide Veterans' Program Manager, Illinois Department of Employment Security
Judy Leonard, Local Veterans' Employment Representative for Lake, McHenry, Kane and Northern Cook Counties
Morgan Gleasman, Diversity Programs Coordinator, CDW

Questions and discussion: Amy Sherman, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

Report on Findings from Tracking Survey

Amy Sherman, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

Resource Fair with LVERs

Facilitator: Kirsten Carroll, Commercial Club of Chicago

Wrap Up and Adjournment

David Hiller, President and CEO, Robert R. McCormick Foundation

LIGHTNING ROUND 1.1.1

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service

- Brief History - Purpose
- Preparation of Veterans
- Integrated Approach to Services
- VETS Programs
- Funding/Oversight
- American Job Centers - Connections



Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs)

- **State employees assigned to the Business Services Team that covers all Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) offices and American Job Centers (AJC)**
- **Key responsibilities:**
 - Conduct outreach to the business community to promote the advantages of hiring veterans
 - In conjunction with employers, conduct job searches and workshops
 - Participate in hiring events
 - Inform federal contractors of the process to hire qualified veterans
 - Train all staff and partners within the state's employment service delivery system
 - Conduct job development activities for veterans that have completed intensive services with a DVOP and are now "Job-Ready"

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs)

- **State employees who cover all Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) offices and American Job Centers (AJC)**
- **Key responsibilities:**
 - Provide intensive employment services utilizing a case management approach to veterans with Significant Barriers to Employment (SBE's), including:
 - Age (18-24 years old)
 - VA-Service Connected Disability Rating combined with another SBE
 - Homelessness
 - Recent military discharge combined with at least 27 weeks of unemployment
 - Recently released from a correctional center / jail
 - Actively engage in building relationships with federal, state, and local organizations that can assist veterans with a variety of supportive services; these organizations also refer veterans with SBE's to the DVOP specialist
 - Attend Stand-Downs and Veterans' Resource Fairs to identify veterans with SBE's and inform them of the employment services available at the IDES Office / AJC

Best Practices in Working with LVERS

- **Facilitating Employment Opportunities for Veterans**
 - Hiring Events vs. Job Fairs
 - Illinois Hires Heroes Consortium
 - Effective “in-person” employer outreach and involvement in Business Organizations
 - Quality Job Development = Qualified Veteran Job Seeker Referrals

News You Can Use: Working with LVERs

- Make a connection here today. LVERs are available, exchange business cards
- Invite a LVER to take a tour of your facility to understand your business and the requirements of the job you want done
- Explore the resources available to you at our offices (Onsite recruitment, Employer/Veteran Job Club & Veteran Workshops, Hiring Events)
- Visit our website for “No Cost HR Solutions”
http://www.ides.illinois.gov/Pages/No_Cost_Human_Resource_Solutions.aspx
- Let us know how we can assist you

An Employer Perspective

- Build personal relationships with LVERs near each of your organization's locations (think of it as a mutually beneficial relationship)
- Ongoing communication is vital to maintaining a good partnership and seeing results
 - Send job updates to each contact with jobs in their area
 - Know your audience – highlight specific opportunities if they have a niche group of clients
- Understand the processes from both sides and find a way to create the most effective partnership
- Utilize the resources LVERs offer (job postings, hiring events, education, experience, state job boards, etc.)
- Persistence is key in the early stages to establish a relationship



DISCUSSION

Amy Sherman,
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

REPORT ON TRACKING SURVEY

Amy Sherman,
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

RESOURCE FAIR

Kirsten Carroll,
Commercial Club of Chicago

WRAP-UP

David Hiller

President and CEO, Robert R. McCormick Foundation