



Workforce Development Board
159 King Street, Suite 208
Peterborough, ON

AGING WORKFORCE STORIES CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 28, 2009

Present:

Suzanne Bailey	Trent University – Associate Professor and Interim Chair of the Department, English Literature
Todd Barr	Trent Centre for Community Based Education
Peter Carroll	President Ontario Secondary School Teacher Federation (OSSTF) District 15
Robbie Cushing	WDB – Summer Student
Jenn Harrington	WDB - Director of Programs
Claudia Humber	Service Canada, Labour Market Information Analyst
Alan Law	Trent University – Associate Professor, Sociology
Dawn Berry Merriam	Social Planning Council
Fergal O'Hagan	Trent University – Lecturer Department of Psychology
Jim Struthers	Trent University – Canadian Studies

Meeting Objective: To discuss project intersection within the 'Individual' level of research and the New Horizons Funding application process

Discussion Points:

New Horizons Funding:

- Jim gave a history of the New Horizons Funding program
 - Focus is to involve seniors in all phases of the project from start to finish
 - Each province has funding priorities – project must fall under at least one for Ontario
 - Funding is for a maximum of \$25,000 for one year only
 - Five month waiting period after application deadline for funding
- Good to list organizations that took part in community consultations and who identified aging as an issue
- WDB will complete the application form and forward to committee members for input.
- A meeting has been arranged for **Monday June 8th at 11AM** to discuss the project with senior and older worker representatives from the community. At this meeting we will present project background and current project ideas, get feedback and invite participation (as well as try to get letters of support).
- Letters of support are needed from the community as well as from seniors' groups/organizations.
- Need to define Why Peterborough – how are we different from other communities, why would we benefit from this research, and why we should we get the funding

Projects

- Five main topics were identified
 1. What is the meaning and value of work?
 2. Exploring the costs and contributions of care giving, care networks and caregiver compensation
 3. What is retirement and the impact of the loss of retirement funds on older workers (why do some people want to keep working? Retirement planning?)
 4. Challenges and of 'unhealthy' aging – i.e. aging, work and disabilities
 5. What are effective workplace/employer strategies related to aging? (can this be linked to our employer survey?)
- Research will be collected by interviewing older workers and seniors in the City and County of Peterborough
- Ideally, interviews can be shared between researchers (can then maximize number of interviews to get better sample size)
- Seniors and students will be trained to conduct the interviews
- Would be interesting to compare results to research completed in the 1970s (ie differences in career paths, issues of retirement, downsizing, care giving crunch)
- Question asked: what is the definition of a senior? (jenn called NHF – the answer: No real definition – depends on our research/project. Michael from HRSDC suggested an older worker could be defined as someone older than 55)
- A summit will be held near the completion of the research to get feedback from older workers about future projects and implementation ideas.

Project Outcomes:

- Need to determine clear project outcomes – short, medium and long term goals
- Dawn: Need to determine what are community needs, challenges, who else can use the info we will be gathering? PSPC interested in doing a synopsis of the results
- Outcomes include:
 - Future proposal development, community planning, policy and practice change (reporting to governments), course anthology (Suzanne has suggested she may publish the results as a text for a class), research model for replication by other communities, theory – building around aging, actual products (play, video podcast, written word/narrative, case study)
 - publications

Budget:

- Budget required to complete interviews (transcription and analysis)
- 200 interviews costs about \$25,000 (50 interviews/project)
- Need funds to hire a coordinator thru the Trent Centre for Community Based Education – would help coordinate and organize all the interviews
- Funds needed for digital recorders?
- Funds for the summit
- Stipends?
- Training for conducting interviews (needed for researchers and interviewers)

Timeline: (depends on if/when we get funding 5 months from application deadline is mid Nov)

Design – Fall

Do – Winter

Write-up Summer

Summit Fall

Faculty/Student Involvement:

Possible involvement may include:

- Jim: 4th year course + grad course in the winter
- Fergal: Research practicum
- Suzanne: test course
- Alan: 2nd year transcription

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Committee Members to provide comments to Jenn re. the New Horizons Funding Application once sent out for review
2. Committee members to solicit involvement of older workers and retirees to participate in Meeting on Monday June 8th at 11am (lunch will be provided). Please let Jenn know of any people that are coming. We are striving to have representation from a number of different organizations in the city and county
3. Faculty members to provide Jenn with more detailed project outlines including budget requirements.

Note: Jenn and Todd met with Cathy Smith at the Trent Office of Research on June 1st. Cathy mentioned that faculty should be applying for internal Trent grants for this project. As well, she mentioned that because of the great momentum we have going we should perhaps look at going big and applying for a CURA grant.