

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Economic Development Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Economic Development Committee Minutes
March 12, 2014**

The DeKalb County Economic Development Committee met on Monday, March 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in the Legislative Center's Gathertorium. Chairman Whelan called the meeting to order. Members present were Bob Brown, Riley Oncken, Mark Pietrowski, Jeff Metzger and Stephen Reid. Russ Deverell was absent. Others present were Gary Hanson, Christine Johnson, Dan Kenney, Ed Harvey, Herb Kuryliw and Amit Patel.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Oncken, seconded by Mr. Reid, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from February 10, 2014.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Mr. Oncken, seconded by Mr. Reid and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

FIBER OPTIC UPDATE

Mr. Hanson shared that the Fiber Optic Project has come to a successful close so now is a good time to give a recap on the grant and the project. He then introduced Ed Harvey, Herb Kuryliw and Amit Patel. Mr. Hanson also passed around an example of what Fiber is.

Ed Harvey, the grant coordinator on the Fiber Optic Project first spoke to the Committee and went over the background on the project's grant information and milestones. The grant was awarded in in 2010 and the project was 67% complete within two years. The original completion date for the project was February 2013 but there was an extension needed due to many route changes that were needed to be done and many heavy environmental studies that needed to be done which made the new completion date September of 2013 which was met. The three month close out period was completed, met and finalized by January 2014.

Mr. Harvey also went through the project's characteristics and noted that the Fiber's private use and private economic development was delegated to DeKalb Fiber Optics. He shared information regarding the projects finances as well as went through the attached map to show what Fibers were constructed throughout the County. The total distance of the project is 143.67 miles and of that the County constructed roughly 131 miles. The metrics for the grant were 130 miles so that was exceeded.

The County's responsibility in this project is to connect and serve the communities anchors and there are 78 of those anchors which include, schools, health care institutions, governmental agencies, and libraries that are all authorized to be connected by grant funds. They were also authorized to be connected to twelve 911 locations called links.

Herb Kuryliw, Chief Network Architect for NIU Information Technology Services, thanked the Committee, Mr. Hanson and Ed Harvey for of their hard work and for taking the risk on this project. He continued to explain what NIU is doing with this project and more about the private sector of Fiber Optics. Mr. Kuryliw went over the successful data visions that broadband technology have provided. He also shared examples that displayed partnerships and initiatives that went above and beyond the grant.

Mr. Kuryliw shared with the Committee success stories from Genoa-Kingston C.U.S.D. and Somonauk C.U.S.D. regarding Fiber and how they have benefitted in many ways from the broadband technology. There are many new projects and pilot programs that are starting up because of the faster data services.

NIU is taking the lead in broadband technology and some volunteer programs from NIU that are starting to run off the network include a smart space called STEAM, Stemread (a library pilot program), and NIU ETutoring. The NIU School of Music is benefitting in many ways as well. Mr. Kuryliw also spoke about their partnerships with DeKalb Fiber Optics and Syndeo and explain the private sector and shared success stories of underserved rural areas as well as financial institutes, agricultural businesses and some small businesses. It is anticipated that services will double by this summer.

Speaking about the economic impact the speed of broadband is creating is helping all kinds of business and Mr. Kuryliw spoke on how Auto Meter in Sycamore has really benefitted and expanded with their website due to the speed of the broadband. Mr. Kuryliw thanked everyone again for taking the risk with the project and expressed what an amazing project this Fiber Optic Project is. The Committee also thanked everyone for all of the grant work and the hard effort that was put in to make the project successful.

PROPOSAL FROM HOPE HAVEN – JOB SKILLS PROGRAM

Dan Kenney, President of the Board at Hope Haven came to the Committee with a proposal regarding that start of a job skills program for Hope Haven residents. He shared that as of today, there are 93 residents in the shelter and that breaks down into 18 families and there are 40 children being housed there. There are also 4 families currently on the waiting list to get into the facility.

Mr. Kenney shared that Hope Haven currently houses the Life Skills Training Center partly funded by the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board. Also Hope Haven provides shelter for the homeless population of the County. Often, individuals with long term mental illness struggle with chronic unemployment, and they make up a large percentage of the homeless population. The individuals who are capable of learning new skills, and have the ability to become reliable employees are also among this population. The job skills program will target

those individuals who are capable of moving back into a productive role in the workforce, if they receive the needed support.

Hope Haven will be contributing approximately \$100,000 of in-kind contribution to the program. The Hope Haven staff will provide the training in basic workplace etiquette, communication, conflict resolution, computer use, Microsoft office, personal finance, life skills, and healthy living instruction. Hope Haven will also provide the infrastructure, of classroom, building use, etc for this instruction to take place.

Most of the residents of Hope Haven do not have transportation of their own. Thus part of the request is for a van for carrying residents to job interviews, work sites, medical appointments, etc. There are many times when the TransVac cannot meet the need, nor when public transportation is feasible for the residents. A van will allow Hope Haven staff to transport clients to the job site locations, to classes, and for job interviews.

Also part of the request is for new technology including wireless notebook computers, tablets, Microsoft office software, and a wireless fax and copier machine. This technology will enhance job training skills for the clients, so they are ready for the present work force needs, rather than the very outdated computers that are now available to the clients. Also the clients could be trained and empowered to fax their own completed resumes and applications, etc.

In order to make the job skills program a success, Hope Haven seeks the following support from the DeKalb County Economic Development committee.

The funds will enable Hope Haven and its partners to ensure the job skills program provides a successful experience for their clients, and thus put in place a program that in the long term will lessen the tax payer burden.

Requests:

Not to exceed \$30,000 for Passenger van(s) from a local car dealer.

\$10,000 to start a "Back to School" scholarship for adults at Hope Haven.

Not to exceed \$5,000 in new technology which includes but not limited to wireless notebook laptops, tablets, computer software to improve job skills, wireless laser jet printer, copier and fax machine.

\$5,000 to start a job interview outfit fund for Hope Haven to help adults purchase an outfit for a job interview.

\$10,000 to help develop partnerships with local businesses willing to spend time/resources training adults at Hope Haven in manufacturing, distribution, retail, auto repair and construction skills.

Total Request: \$60,000

Chairman Whelan asked if Mr. Kenney had contacted Paul Borek or the River Valley Workforce Investment Act Board. The board works with job skills in DeKalb, Kane, and Kendall Counties. He suggested that it might be advantageous for Mr. Kenney to contact them. He indicated he would.

Mr. Metzger asked if any of these funds were requested through the Senior Tax Levy. Mr. Kenney indicated that these funds were not included in that request.

Mr. Oncken asked if they were Mr. Kenney's first stop or if he was planning on requesting any fund from any other entities. He stated that they are always thinking matching and collaboration.

The Committee provided Mr. Kenney with addition suggestions of where to find help with services or ways to reduce costs. The Committee suggested that Mr. Kenney maybe look into the suggestions and see what kind of information he can accrue and possibly return to the Committee after they have had time to discuss the proposal. Mr. Oncken also suggested if Mr. Kenney could find a contributor(s) there could be a possibility that the County could collaborate and price match.

Mr. Whelan announced that their next two meetings Ms. Christine Johnson is going to be in touch with local Mayors and have them come and speak to the Committee. Mr. Whelan announced he is hoping that the Mayors from Hinckley, Genoa, Maple Park, Cortland and Sandwich. The plan is to have two Mayors speak on April 9th and three come to the May 6th Economic Development Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Oncken, seconded by Mr. Brown, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jeff Whelan

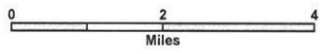
Tasha Stogsdill, Recording Secretary

DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority System Map



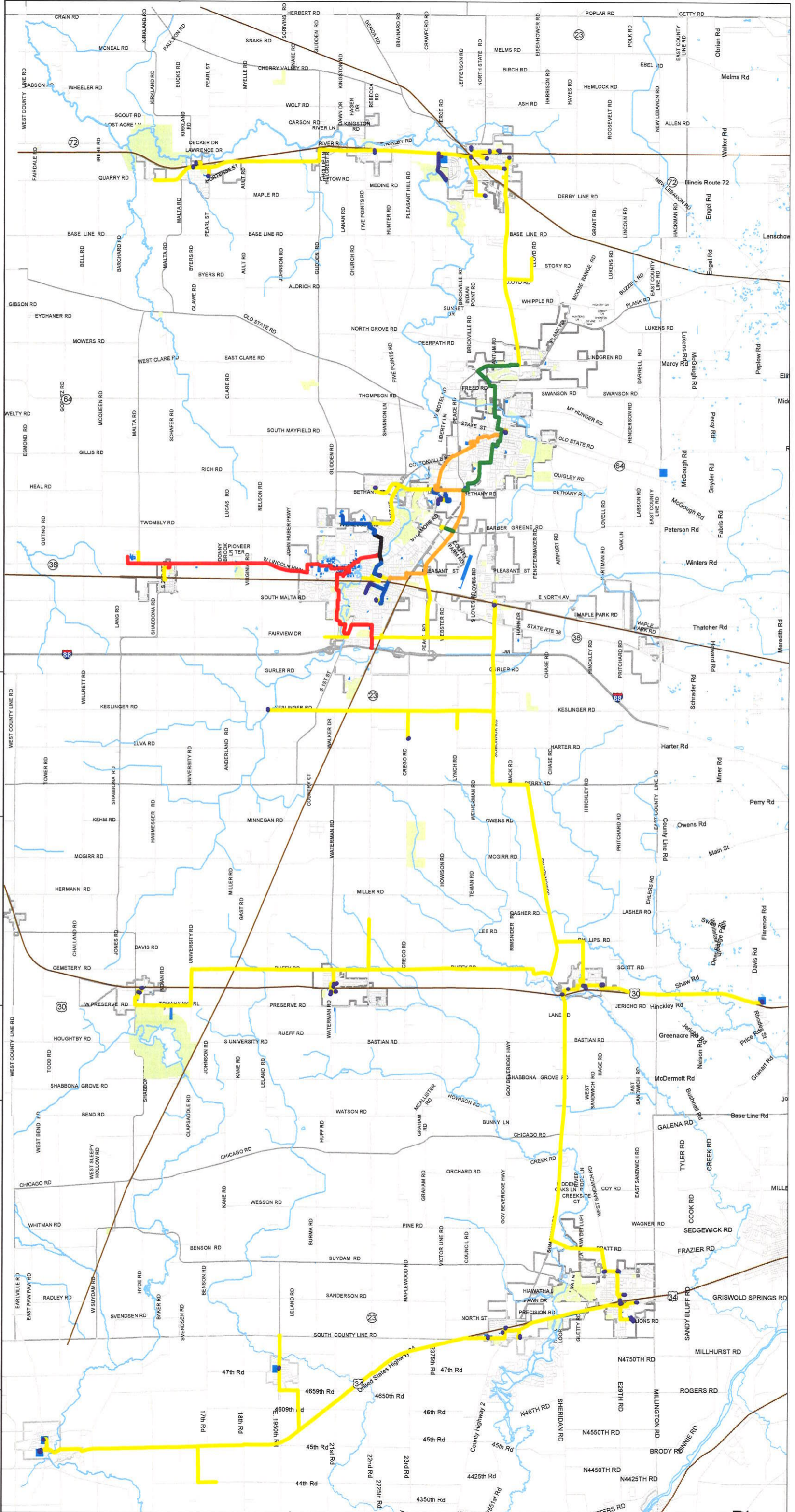
Duct Type (Fibers)

- 8-way Futurepath (144)
- Pinpoint (12)
- DFO-owned duct (7-way Futurepath), DeKalb County-owned fiber (144)
- DFO-owned duct (1.5"), DeKalb County-owned fiber (144) within override duct
- DFO contributed fiber in DFO Duct
- DFO contributed fiber in school district Duct
- IRU purchased from NIU (12)



DeKalb County Government
Information Management Office
110 East Sycamore Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Created: November 15, 2013 BH
Printed: November 26, 2013 BH



Proposal
Job Skills Program
Presented by
Hope Haven Homeless Shelter

March 6, 2014

Program Overview

The job skills program is a collaborative project to provide homeless residents of DeKalb County job training and development. The goal of this project is to provide a path back into the work force for those who have been chronically unemployed. The instruction, hands-on work experience, and training will provide the skills, experience, and support these individuals need to re-enter the workforce with confidence and the skills to succeed.

Hope Haven will work in collaboration with Kishwaukee Community College, and other local organizations and businesses to establish a program that provides wrap around services and education. Individuals will learn transferable work and life skills essential for a successful transition from unemployment or under-employment, to successful employment and stability. The program will increase the resources available to adults at Hope Haven.

Program Details

Hope Haven currently houses the Life Skills Training Center partly funded by the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board. Also Hope Haven provides shelter for the homeless population of the County. Often, individuals with long term mental illness struggle with chronic unemployment, and they make up a large percentage of the homeless population. The individuals who are capable of learning new skills, and have the ability to become reliable employees are also among this population. The job skills program will target those individuals who are capable of moving back into a productive role in the workforce, if they receive the needed support.

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skills, and healthy living instruction. Hope Haven will also provide the infrastructure, of classroom, building use, etc for this instruction to take place.

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Monetary Request for the Job Skills Program

In order to make the job skills program a success, Hope Haven seeks the following support from the DeKalb County Economic Development committee.

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