

Approved February 8, 1989
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth Baker at
Chairperson

3:39 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 1989 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representatives Brady, Foster and Dean. Excused.

Committee staff present:

Jim Wilson, Revisor
Lynne Holt, Research
Elaine Johnson, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Vikki Stewart, Director, Kansas State Library Literacy Program.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Baker at 3:39 p.m. The committee was informed that the minutes of the January 24, 25 and 26 meetings were in their folders and we would be asking for approval of these minutes at tomorrow's meeting.

Chairman Baker recognized Vikki Stewart, Director, Kansas State Library Literacy Program.

Ms. Stewart spoke to the committee about literacy in the workplace. Ms. Stewart feels that there is a definite link between literacy and economic development. Ms. Stewart addressed the ways in which she felt state government could help. They are the following:

Support the establishment of Kansas Workplace Literacy Task Force to raise awareness of literacy issues with business, organized labor, community organizations, social service agencies, and educational providers.

Support workplace literacy by offering tax incentives to businesses that set up programs of basic skills instruction for employees in need of such help. Business would then encourage employees to (1) seek basic skills instruction and (2) serve as volunteer tutors.

Give grants and in-kind assistance to programs to enable improvement and expansion of staff, tutoring, and other essential services.

Support the development of new literacy approaches and services -- e.g. use of computers and television -- to extend instructional outreach especially for rural areas.

Fund projects of adult literacy research, data gathering, and information dissemination. (Attachment 1).

Ms. Stewart also addressed "40 Facts About Adult Illiteracy in the U.S.A." (Attachment 2).

Ms. Stewart responded to questions from the committee.

Ms. Stewart recognized Bob Berker of Adult Basic Education, Ottawa, Kansas.

Mr. Berker spoke to the committee about "Kansas Adult Basic Education." (Attachment 3).

Mr. Berker responded to questions from the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Baker

Date: 2/1/89

GUEST REGISTRE

H O U S E

Committee on Economic Development

NAME

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

Lynnea Clanton Ks Dept of Human Resources 401 Topeka

Judy Frost City of Topeka →

Ann Patterson KDOC Topeka

Bob Becker Adult Basic Ed 422 S. Main Ottawa

Dennis R. Baker SRS Kan Work Topeka

Blank lines for additional entries in the table.

Vikki Stewart, Director, KANSAS STATE LIBRARY Literacy Program
PO Box 87, Andover, KS 67002, (316) 733-0091

WORKPLACE LITERACY

DEFINITIONS

1. Illiteracy is typically defined as the inability to read, write, and comprehend short simple sentences.
2. Functional illiteracy is perhaps best defined as the inability to read, write, or compute well enough to accomplish the kinds of basic and pervasive tasks necessary for everyday adult living.
3. Workplace literacy, then, is giving the adult the tools to affect change in their lives by teaching basic and academic skills that relate to their work.

ABSTRACT

Workplace literacy efforts in Kansas are disjointed. Adult Basic Education programs work with local business referrals when possible. Business and industry basically is apathetic -- they take the "cream of the crop" of employees. Most do not have long-range concerns regarding the workforce supply meeting future business and industry needs. This presentation will address available statistics, a specific case of workplace literacy, economic development as it relates to literacy, profile adult basic education programs, and suggestions for state support of workplace literacy.

INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 1982 the U.S. Department of Education commissioned the Bureau of the Census to conduct the English Language Proficiency Survey (ELPS). The test used was called the Measure of English Language Proficiency (MAEP). A simple written test of English comprehension was administered in homes to a national sample of 3400 adults, ages 20 and over. This study showed that between 17 and 21 million U.S. adults are illiterate for an overall rate of 13%. The ELPS extrapolated those figures for a Kansas rate of 9% or approximately 160,000 adults over the age of 20.

CASE STUDIES

WICHITA - Literacy Volunteers of America - Wichita Area (LVA-WA) collaborated with COLEMAN Company. A Coleman employee, Julie Armstrong, did a survey to determine a need; Coleman supported a basic reading workshop done by LVA-WA to train employee tutors; a Coleman employee matched tutors and students; Coleman tutors worked with Coleman students to prepare for the General Education Development Test (GED). Additional information available from Lynn Searls, Coleman (316) 832-6463 & Jamie Elliott, LVA-WA (316) 833-4307.

HUTCHINSON - Hutchinson Community College works with DOSCOCIL and EATON (an industrial hydraulic manufacturer) to provide GED preparation for employees. For more information contact Ed Berger, Hutchinson Community College, (316) 665-3500.

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(Page 2 - Workplace Literacy)

OVERLAND PARK - Johnson County Community College (JCCC) works with A.F.G. Industries, Spring Hill, KS and R.O. Corp. at their Olathe Center. JCCC also works with the city of Olathe, personnel department and the Johnson County Jail. JCCC and Johnson County Public Library have written a Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant to support a plan of workplace literacy. Contact Phil Wegman, JCCC (913) 469-3890.

COLBY - Colby Community College (CCC) and HAYS Unified School District (USD) Adult Education program work with local Walmarts to prepare employees for the GED. Most adult basic education programs in Kansas work with local Walmarts. CCC also works with correctional facility at Norton. Contact Joe Mildrexler, CCC (913) 462-3984 or Harv Davidson, Hays (913) 625-3451.

CONCLUSION

By in large, workplace literacy is not a part of economic development strategies. Adult education programs are under funded/under staffed, overloaded and overwhelmed. Business and industry and economic development do not as yet see a correlation between them and literacy. It is not realistic for developers to view illiteracy/functional illiteracy as a negative image in the workings of economic development. In deed, business and industry planning to be successful in the future look to areas that can provide a pool of workers that are trainable and retainable as technology advances. Workers that are life-long learners.

HOW CAN STATE GOVERNMENT HELP?

- * Support the establishment of Kansas Workplace Literacy Task Force to raise awareness of literacy issues with business, organized labor, community organizations, social service agencies, and educational providers.
- * Support workplace literacy by offering tax incentives to businesses that set up programs of basic skills instruction for employees in need of such help. Business would then encourage employees to (1) seek basic skills instruction and (2) serve as volunteer tutors.
- * Give grants and in-kind assistance to programs to enable improvement and expansion of staff, tutoring, and other essential services.
- * Support the development of new literacy approaches and services -- e.g. use of computers and television -- to extend instructional outreach especially for rural areas.
- * Fund projects of adult literacy research, data gathering, and information dissemination.

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FACTS ABOUT ADULT ILLITERACY IN THE USA

1 in 5 (20%) American adults is functionally illiterate.

-US Department of Education

In addition to the 20% functional illiteracy rate, another 34% of American adults are only marginally literate.

-US Department of Education

A 1982 study indicated that approximately 13% of American adults (17 to 21 million people), age 20 and over, do not read at all or read below the 4th grade level.

-English Language Proficiency Study

The high school dropout rate in the United States is 27% - in Japan, the rate is 5% and in the Soviet Union, the rate is 2%.

-US Department of Education

75% of unemployed adults have reading or writing difficulties.

-Jonathan Kozol, Illiterate America

The United States ranks 49th among 156 United Nation member countries in its rate of literacy (a drop of 18 places since 1950).

-United Nations

60% of America's prison inmates are illiterate and 85% of all juvenile offenders have problems reading.

-US Department of Education

The number of illiterate adults exceeds by 16 million the entire vote cast for the winner in the 1980 presidential contest.

-Jonathan Kozol, Illiterate America

It is estimated that the cost of illiteracy to business and the taxpayer is \$20 billion per year.

-United Way, "Illiteracy: A National Crisis"

In 1986-87, the federal government spent \$17 per illiterate adult to aid adult literacy efforts.

-National Education Association

50% of American adults are unable to read an 8th grade level book.

-Jonathan Kozol, Illiterate America

Only 3 to 4 million adults with literacy related problems are reached by government programs each year.

-Paul Pearson, The Future of Work and Education

**13% of all 17 year olds are functionally illiterate.
Among minority youth, the figure is 44%.**

-National Commission on Excellence in Education

A 1985 study of 3,600 adults between the ages of 21 and 25 indicated that:

**80% couldn't read a bus schedule,
73% couldn't interpret a newspaper story,
63% couldn't follow written map directions,
28% couldn't write a billing error letter, and
23% were unable to locate the gross pay-to-date on a pay stub.**

-National Assessment for Education Progress

It is estimated that 15 million adults holding jobs today are functionally illiterate.

-Nation's Business magazine

On average, an illiterate adult earns 42% less than a high school graduate.

-Laubach Literacy Action

2.2 million people (44,000 per week) are added to the adult illiterate population of the United States every year.

-US Department of Education

Three-quarters of the Fortune 500 companies provide some level of remedial training for their workers, costing in the neighborhood of \$300 million per year and effecting 8 million workers.

-American Council of Life Insurance

It is estimated that \$5 billion a year in taxes goes to support people receiving public assistance who are unemployable due to illiteracy.

-Laubach Literacy Action

The average kindergarten student has seen more than 5,000 hours of TV, having spent more time in front of the TV than it takes to earn a bachelor's degree.

-US Department of Education

People with less than 6 years of schooling are 4 times as likely to be receiving public assistance as those attaining 6 or more years of education.

-American Council of Life Insurance

27% of army enlistees can't read training manuals written at the 7th grade level.

-Laubach Literacy Action

Nearly 3 million American adults have never attended school.

-American Association of Retired Persons

**51% of illiterate adults live in small towns and suburbs,
41% live in urban areas, and 8% live in rural areas.**

-National Education Association

**41% of the adults who are illiterate in English are English speaking whites,
22% are English speaking blacks,
22% are Spanish speaking,
and 15% are other non-English speaking people.**

-National Education Association

**Up to 86% of non-English speakers who are illiterate in English
are also illiterate in their native language.**

-English Language Proficiency Study

**40% of illiterate adults are between the ages of 20 to 39,
28% are 40-59, 32% are 60 or older.**

-National Education Association

**In a nationwide sample of 18 to 23 year olds, 52% of whites,
83% of Hispanics, and 91% of blacks could not read at a 9th grade level.**

-Department of Defense, 1984

**Nationwide, education majors come from the lowest strata of college students,
scoring 32 points below national averages on the verbal portion of the SAT,
and 48 points lower on the math section.**

-Time, 1983

**Americans who do not complete high school have two-thirds the
lifetime earning capacity of those who graduate. Those who do not finish grade school
have only one-half the lifetime earning capacity of graduates.**

-US Department of Education

**It is estimated that adult student reading scores
improve approximately 1 grade level with 35 to 45 hours of tutoring.**

-Literacy Volunteers of America

**25.6 % of all females, 25 and older, do not have a high school diploma,
compared to 24.9% for males.**

-US Census, 1986

**The average American male, age 18 and over, watches nearly 29.5 hours of TV per week.
The average female watches almost 35 hours per week.**

-A.C. Nielsen estimates, 1986

34.8% of women who are heads of households do not have a high school diploma, whereas 24.7% of couples and men who head households do not have a high school diploma.

-US Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, 1986

In fiscal year 1986, the federal budget for Education was \$18 billion, of which about \$1.1 billion was for all types of adult basic education. For the same year, the budgets for other federal departments were as follows:

**Labor, \$24 billion;
Agriculture, \$59 billion;
Health and Human Services, \$143 billion;
Treasury, \$176 billion;
and Defense, \$286 billion.**

-US Treasury, 1986

44% of American adults do not read even one book in the course of a year.

-US Department of Education.

In 1985, Procter & Gamble, Philip Morris, and R.J. Reynolds/Nabisco companies each spent more on advertising than the U.S. government spent on adult basic education (about \$1.1 billion).

-World Almanac, 1988

40% of all current jobs require limited skills, but it is estimated that only 27% of newly created jobs fall into the low skill categories.

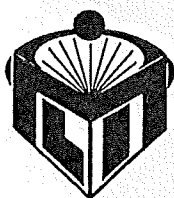
-Workforce 2000, US Department of Labor

Youngsters whose parents are functionally illiterate are twice as likely as their peers to be functionally illiterate.

-National Assessment of Educational Progress

According to Bureau of Justice statistics, a random sample of 1,000 males between the ages of 21 and 29 who have 7 years or fewer of schooling would show that 342 of them are in prison, compared to 11 from a group of the same size who had completed high school.

-Education Week, 1984



These statistics were collected by Michigan Literacy, Inc. (MLI). Michigan Literacy, Inc. is a non-profit private organization based in the Library of Michigan. MLI serves and supports local volunteer adult literacy programs throughout the state. For more information about MLI, write or call: P.O. Box 30007, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 373-4451 or 4452.

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Kansas Adult Basic Education

Kansas State Department of Education

Adult Education Specialist Mr. Phil Thomas
(Federal Programs)

Mr. Thomas administers all funded programs, maintains relations with the US Department of Education, and is the Kansas GED Official. He is currently guiding the development of a new ABE State Plan.

Area Coordinators

SE Kansas (Independence) Evelyn Musgrove
West Kansas (Dodge City) Dennis Nell
Central Kansas (Newton) Marlin Frey
NE Kansas (Ottawa) Bob Becker

The coordinators arrange in-service for area ABE professionals, provide administrative in-service for area directors, and publish newsletters. The coordinators serve as advisors to the Adult Education Specialist.

Adult Basic Education Centers

Thirty-five centers serve the state. 19 are sponsored by the Community Colleges and 16 are sponsored by Unified School Districts.

Last year, over 15,000 students were served. Over 6,000 passed the GED high school equivalency test.

Adult Education Centers devote no less than 80% of their resources helping students with 8th grade or less skills in reading, writing, math or English.

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