

Secure Jobs Advisory Committee Update

On the heels of the Secure Jobs Advisory Committee's very successful Career Services Workshop on 11/15/17, with over 70 people in attendance, the group decided it was time to take stock of how to build on that success and make best use of the Committee.

At our last meeting on December 13 (*attending: Luis Arzola, CHD, Ashley Brehm, Way Finders, Bud Delphin, CareerPoint, Lisa Lapierre, Franklin Hampshire Career Center, Maegan Pedemonti, Way Finders*), the group, also in consultation with Konrad Rogowska of FutureWorks and Pamela Wojtkowski of BerkshireWorks, made some important decisions around the Secure Jobs Advisory Committee.

In summary, **the group is changing its name to the Career Services Committee and has decided to take a broader scope in its mission beyond the Secure Jobs Initiative**, which due to reduced state funding over recent years (and Way Finders' innovative in-house ways to continue to employ people far in excess of its state contract goals), now needs to refine its purpose and mission.

Towards that end, the Network in conjunction with core committee members - each career center and Secure Jobs - will convene a focus group-style meeting with specific stakeholders to brainstorm how to best serve the region in our shared goal to increase employment for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This meeting will include representatives from: community colleges, literacy centers, community action agencies, family resource centers, housing and shelter providers. If you are among those listed, please stay tuned for a meeting date in late January.

We look forward to being back in touch in February with our clarified focus and next meeting date for the entire committee.