Research & Consulting Committee Meeting
January 8, 2015

Attendance: Warren Falberg - Chair, Michele Blair, Brian Carley, Jeff Kerstine, Catherine Miller, Jim Russell, Brandon Zureick, Michael Jones, Brad Evans, Lorrie Penner and Andy Benson by phone.

I. Welcome and Introductions
Warren Falberg opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and had everyone introduce themselves to the group.

Warren outlined the purpose of the Research & Consulting committee;
A. Identify opportunities for the Research & Consulting division of the Economics Center to increase their business.
B. Act as an advisory body to the Research & Consulting team.
C. Advocate for the research and consulting work that the Center does by making business introductions to potential clients.

II. Financial Update
Michael Jones reviewed the Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual dated July through November 2014. He pointed out that the Research & Consulting division’s income is 98% of projected. The team has also managed to keep their expenses down by roughly half of what was projected and salaries are in line. Financially the research and consulting team is doing well. They are currently working on 6 to 7 projects at any given time.

III. Project Update
Michael spent some time on recent highlights of the work that the team has completed.
A. HPIO Health Benchmarking - the team worked with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio on about 100 different metrics. The study compared a number of health measures with the rest of the United States. The study found that when it came to health issues and how much was spent compared to how much improved, Ohio ranked 47th. In other words, a lot of money was spent but the outcomes of health improvement programs did not succeed in getting better results.
This report was shared at the state level on December 17th. The health-care industry is currently disseminating the study results to determine what health care measures that can be improved.

**Action Item:** Michael to send the summary of the report to the committee and a pdf of the full report.

**B. Cradle Cincinnati - Economic Impact of actions to prevent premature births on the local region.** Results of the study will help the client identify measures that are helping prevent premature births.

**C. Cincinnati Tax Forecast -** the team delivered a 5 year forecast to the city in December. This is a repeat customer and the team will pursue the option to renew the contract again to be completed in 2016. The fee for this forecast is $50,000 every two years.

**D. Women’s Fund -** A press release came out in December which shows jobs by gender, wages differences between male and female employees and identifies the fastest growing occupations for women. Team member, Stuart Wilson provided infographics on this project. This project is has a second phase, which will be released in March.

**E. Loveland School District - Enrollment forecast.** The Center is looking to replicate this type of forecast for other school districts. The committee recommended working with construction companies and approaching colleges with this type of report. Brandon Zureick offered to make introductions with Turner Construction.

**F. TAACCT (Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program) -** the Center has an application in for one of these grants. TAACCT provides community colleges and other eligible institutions of higher education with funds to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less, are suited for workers who are eligible for training under the TAA for Workers program, and prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations. In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act amended the Trade Act of 1974 to authorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCT) Grant Program. On March 30, 2010, President
Barack Obama signed the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, which included $2 billion over four years to fund the TAACCCT program.

The committee made the following recommendations to the research & consulting team;

1. Present research to local politicians, reach out to brief Federal legislators about what the Center does and what some of the local initiatives are that may benefit from research.


3. Look into Economic Education for Prisoners.
   The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC)

4. Approach other states regarding doing the Health Benchmarking similar to the HPIO study.

5. Jeff Kerstine offered to reach out to a contact of his on behalf of the Center in regards to municipal finance for schools.

IV. EDA University Center Program
Michael presented the idea that the Center is interested in getting into the EDA University Center Program, which provides 5 year funding for a variety of services that the Center provides. The Economics Development Administration (EDA) began offering grants in 1966 to institutions of higher education to improve the economies and economic development capacity of their service areas with emphasis on economically distressed communities. It is the team’s goal to be accepted into the grant program in 2016.

V. Next Meetings
Please Save the Date for the following 2015 meetings;
Thursday, March 12, 2015 12:00p.m.-1:30p.m. Location to be determined.
Thursday, June 11, 2015 12:00p.m.-1:30p.m.
Thursday, October 1, 2015 12:00p.m.-1:30p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.