

# State Workforce Investment Board

## Lifelong Learning Committee

February 10, 2010

Gateway Center  
1710 National Ave.  
Helena, MT

**Council Members Present:** Dave Crum, Chair; Mike DesRosier; Kim Gillan; Kirk Hammerquist; Vicki Judd; TJ Eyer (*Designee for Denise Juneau*); Tom McKenna; and Hank Hudson (*Designee for Anna Whiting-Sorrell.*)

**Council Members Absent:** Linda Guzik and Mary Moe.

**Guests:** Drea Brown, Jenny Veltri, Connie Kinsey, Pat Schlauch; Kelly Chapman, Bruce Day, Mark Maki, Suzanne Ferguson, Marcy Buster, Dave Morey, and Lindsey Woolsey.

**Staff:** Dan Bernhardt, Danielle Nettleton and Leisa Smith.

### I. Welcome & Introduction

Chair Dave Crum called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. He welcomed staff, committee members, and guests. He reminded members that the committee conducts business under Roberts Rules of Order. Members introduced themselves and identified their affiliation.

#### Roll Call

Danielle Nettleton conducted roll call and confirmed a quorum was present.

#### Approval of Agenda

Chair Crum reviewed the agenda; Vicki Judd made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. TJ Eyer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### II. National Trends Presentation and Discussion

Leisa Smith introduced Lindsey Woolsey, Co-Director of Business and Industry Strategies, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, and discussed her recent work with the State Workforce Investment Board. Ms. Woolsey provided a PowerPoint presentation on National Trends in Lifelong Learning; key topics included:

- Education attainment and skill development are essential to good wages and employment.

- Emerging themes across states and local areas included: Work readiness credentials, integrated basic and occupational training, credentials with labor market pay-off, and online learning.
- Career/Work Readiness Credential examples across the nation.
- Integrating work and learning; most adults cannot become fulltime students due to needing to work. National examples included Washington's I-BEST Program.
- Credentials with labor market payoff (stackable and part of career pathways.)
- Today's online learning; examples included Online One-Stop Training and Kentucky Community and Technical College System Online.
- Too much for one system to implement any of the examples alone; SWIB can be the agent for an integrated agenda.

The committee discussed possible resource funds available to the SWIB and the boards control over the sources. Dave Morey provided a brief overview of the Incumbent Worker Training Program and the current status.

Mr. Eyer suggested bringing in key people from key programs to let the committee know how to best partner and what resources can be leveraged. The committee discussed the need to make coordination of services a key focus between programs and program operators. Available services and resources need to be combined at the local level; making it easy for participants to access and understand what is available. Kirk Hammerquist expressed the need to provide directional services to individuals who need help but do not know what is available or where.

Ms. Smith briefly discussed the new grant Making Opportunities Affordable. Discussion occurred regarding the use of grants and the dilemmas faced when the grant expires. Ms. Woolsey commented that employers will sometimes provide funding to keep the programs running if the value is recognized. Tom Curry suggested the committee develop a goal to market the grants available to individuals and help implement programs.

The committee has the proper tools to coordinate services at the local levels (i.e. One-Stops) and map available services and how the community can better align the services and leverage funds. Other SWIB's across the country have mapped services and developed reports.

Suzanne Ferguson provided examples of current leveraging of funds through One-Stop partners. Currently, annual WIA monitoring requires operators to provide documentation of program partners leveraging resources.

The committee discussed the possibility of researching the top five policy barriers faced by program operators at the local level. Local One-Stops and Community Management Teams can be surveyed. Based on results the committee could look at possible solutions, allowing more efficient coordination of services and leveraging of funds. Possible action steps from the

committee could include submitting recommendations to the legislature, state department heads, and the Governor's office.

The committee discussed two possible target groups; incumbent workers and individuals outside the system. Kim Gillan discussed the need for the committee to develop a vision that includes the idea of continuous learning and integration of the public system and the private system. The committee suggested making the integration between the public and private system a committee goal.

### **III. Action Steps and Timelines**

- Staff will develop a survey for One-Stop system providers to identify service barriers; look for trends and commonalities. Results will be provided to the committee. Mr. McKenna encouraged committee members to go and talk with their local One-Stops about possible barriers.
- Staff will research other State Workforce Investment Boards that promote lifelong learning and/or education encouragement; best practices - what do they do and how?
- Staff will research if small businesses receive the same training from colleges as larger employers who have more economic development funds. The data will be compiled and provided to the committee.
- Need to ensure ideas are received from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Office of Public Instruction. Both departments are key players for the committee.
- Next meeting will be done in conjunction with the May SWIB meeting.

### **III. Adjourn**

With no further discussion, Mr. McKenna made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike DesRosier seconded the motion which passed unanimously.