

# MT SWIB

STATE WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

Wednesday, June 7, 2017  
Billings Public Library  
Billings, MT

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dave Crum (Chair), Scott Trent, Dean Bentley, Billie Lee, Jennifer Kobza, Kevin Poulin, Robert Minto, Fred Kellogg, Rep. Vince Ricci, Katie Spalinger, Ken Fichtler, Commissioner Jane Weber, Jasyn Harrington, Al Ekblad, John Cech (Designee), Scott Eychner (Designee), and Jim Marks.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Niles Hushka, Paul Gatzemeier, Paul Hopfauf, Casey Blumenthal, Loren Rose, Tina Bundtrock, Anna Doran, Larry Hall, Kirk Hammerquist, Bill Hunt, Commissioner Mike McGinley, Arlene Templer, Vicky Byrd, Miles McCarvel, Jacquie Helt, and Jay Reardon

**STAFF:** Shannon Lewis and Casey Schreiner

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chair Crum called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

**ROLL CALL:** Shannon Lewis conducted roll call and established a quorum.

**WELCOME FROM BILLINGS MAYOR:** Billings Mayor, Tom Hanel, welcomed the SWIB to the Billings community, let everyone know how grateful he is for the work of the board, and encouraged all meeting participants to see as much of the Billings community during their visit.

**BILLINGS REGIONAL WORKFORCE UPDATE FROM BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BillingsWorks:** BillingsWorks Executive Director Karen Baumgart updated the board on the overall economic development and workforce planning taking place within the Billings community and Yellowstone County. She reviewed the BillingsWorks strategic plan and the proposed measurable outcomes for workforce development throughout the region. The BillingsWorks strategic plan focused on training, recruiting, and economic growth for the private sector as well as public-private collaborative efforts to ensure the Billings region has a highly skilled, well-trained workforce to meet the industry demand moving forward.

**AGENDA:** Chair Crum asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

*Ms. Weber moved, and Mr. Cech seconded a motion to approve the agenda.  
The motion carried.*

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 MINTUES:** Chair Crum asked for a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes from the September 20, 2016 meeting.

*Ms. Weber moved and Ms. Harrington seconded a motion to approve the September 20, 2016 meeting minutes.  
The motion carried.*

**REPORTS:**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:**

Each board member discussed workforce development issues specific to their regions and industry.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:**

Chair Crum gave an update on his trip to D.C. for the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs and the conversations happening around apprenticeship and work-based learning as well as a renewed push for early childhood education as a mechanism to ensure there is a thorough pathway to a well-trained workforce.

**RECRUITMENT & RETENTION COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Fred Kellogg provided the board with an update on the activities of the Recruitment & Retention Committee. Since the September full SWIB board meeting, the Recruitment & Retention Committee has been active implementing the workforce recommendations from the Main Street Montana project. The committee is meeting monthly and it established goals and objectives to guide its work. The committee has had presentations from the HealthCare Montana program about health care apprenticeships and meeting the workforce needs of the health care industry. In addition, the committee has received presentations from the Montana Department of Labor & Industry's economists to better prioritize its work.

**COLLEGE REPORT:**

Amy Watson, an economist for the Montana Department of Labor & Industry presented the statewide college report compiled using data from the Montana University System, Carroll College, Rocky Mountain College, and the Montana Department of Revenue. The report matched priority occupations throughout Montana with the degrees earned through the university system. It also matched wages based on occupation and degree earned. The next steps for the report is to engage in a meaningful way with regional industry leaders throughout Montana to have a more in-depth look at the data and find solutions to some of the issues raised in the report.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Chair Crum updated the board on the activities of the Executive Committee. Much of the work flowing through the Executive Committee comes from the WIOA Committee and the need to approve policies, processes, and other matters necessary to implement WIOA in Montana.

**FEDERAL AND MONTANA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Scott Eychner gave the board an update on federal and Montana Legislative actions impacts on the Montana Department of Labor and its workforce programs. The Montana Legislature did pass a handful of bills that support Montana's workforce system, most notably, Representative Schreiner's apprenticeship tax credit bill. In

addition, the Montana Legislature passed the SWIB cleanup bill, which adopted the federal language guiding the state workforce board. The Montana Legislature did cut the Montana Department of Labor & Industry's budget by 10%, which will affect some programs, but the agency will still be able to administer significant programs. On the federal side, there is a great deal of uncertainty, especially regarding funding for WIOA. Congress did pass a continuing resolution, which flat-funded programs through the end of the federal fiscal year, September 30, 2017. The president also put forward a FY 2018 budget, which imposed a 21% cut to the U.S. Department of Labor's annual budget with a 35% cut to WIOA formula programs serving adults, dislocated workers, and youth. The Montana Department of Labor & Industry will keep the board updated on budgetary changes from the federal government as it receives additional information from its federal partners.

#### **WIOA COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Commissioner Weber gave the board an update on the WIOA Committee's activities. Since the board's September meeting, the WIOA Committee released, scored, and designated a One-Stop Operator for the State of Montana. As part of that process, the committee agreed to receive regular updates from the One-Stop Operator on the coordination of services and strengthening relationships with core partners. The WIOA Committee is also working with SWIB staff and staff at the Montana Department of Labor & Industry to update all policies to reflect changes under WIOA. The WIOA committee also approved all of the internal MOUs for SWIB responsibilities.

#### **WIOA PERFORMANCE TARGETS:**

Suzanne Ferguson updated the board on the tracking of performance of WIOA providers. The federal government sets the WIOA performance targets and the board will continue reviewing the performance of WIOA providers to evaluate the effectiveness of the system. The board approved the metrics at its June 2016 meeting.

#### **FUNDING PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL:**

Erin Weisgerber presented the board with the funding methodology based on the funding passed by congress in the continuing resolution. There are no assurances about the future funding of WIOA programs; however, the SWIB is still obligated to approve the funding methodology.

***Mr. Minto moved and Commissioner Weber seconded a motion to approve the funding formula allocation through September 30, 2017 giving authority to the Executive Committee to vote on a budget based on funding changes.***

***The motion carried.***

***Ms. Harrington abstained from the vote.***

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Crum adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM for a tour of St. Vincent's Mansfield Health Education Center for Neonatal and Pediatric Care.

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Crum called the meeting back to order at 10:15 AM.

**EDUCATION & TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Jasyn Harrington updated the board on the Education & Training Committee's activities since the September board meeting. The committee continues to work on implementing the workforce recommendations from the Governor's Main Street Montana project, and is confident that two recommendations assigned to the Education & Training Committee are complete. The committee received updates from the Montana University System on the implementation of a comprehensive inventory of IT trainings and the University System's work to expand certification opportunities for high school students through dual enrollment and creating career pathways for students. In addition, the Education & Training Committee formed a Youth Committee and adopted goals and objectives to guide its work throughout the year.

**YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT:**

The Youth Committee was formed in March and met twice and is getting on track to have regularly scheduled monthly committee meetings. The Youth Committee will focus on implementing strategies and best practices to ensure that youth facing significant barriers to education, employment, and training have access to WIOA programs and supportive services to ensure they have a path into the workforce.

**BILLINGS CAREER LAB PRESENTATION:**

Scott Anderson, Principal at the Billings Career Lab, gave a presentation to the board about the work within the Billings School District to create meaningful career pathways to students in Billings. The Billings Career Lab was launched in the '70's and is now a robust programmatic component to ensure that students in the Billings School District have opportunities to learn about, and train in, a number of careers and industries. The Billings Career Lab has robust community and industry support and has been able to partner with the Montana University System to further integrate dual enrollment and career pathways into its programs.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Crum adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.