

State Workforce Investment Board

Executive Committee MetNet Video Conference March 19, 2009

Committee Members Present: Dan Miles, Chair; Marty Copps, Vice Chair; Dave Crum; Mike Grove; Keith Kelly; Mike McGinley; Mike O'Neill; Gail Richardson; Tyler Trevor; and Pat Wise (Evan Barret.)

Committee Members Absent: Georgia Gibbs-Atkinson.

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

Guests: Suzanne Ferguson, Connie Kinsey, Jeff Rupp, Dave Morey, Gary Wright, Mary Berg, Tiffany Canter, Lynn Clark, Sarah De Money, Judy Cerise, and Denise McGivern.

I. Welcome & Introduction

Chairman Dan Miles called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. He welcomed staff, committee members, and guests.

Roll Call and Housekeeping

Danielle Nettleton conducted roll call. Chairman Miles explained the committee conducts business under Roberts Rules of Order. He stated he would relax Roberts Rules of Order to allow informal discussion among members.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Miles reviewed the agenda. He announced the Apprenticeship meeting had been postponed; therefore the Apprenticeship Marketing Recommendation was removed from the agenda. Chair Miles requested discussing Reports and Updates prior to taking action on the WIA Expanded Eligibility. The agenda was accepted as amended by consensus.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Miles asked if there were any changes to the November 19, 2008 minutes. Pat Wise, designee for Evan Barrett requested his name be removed from the absent members list as she was in attendance on his behalf. Keith Kelly made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Mike Grove seconded the motion which passed by consensus. Leisa Smith reported MSU Great Falls - College of Technology received a USDOL Community Based Job Training Grant for a state-wide curriculum for training programs in Industrial Technology and Wind Technology. The SWIB supported their request for WIA Governor Set-Aside funding to leverage with their grant should it be awarded. Staff is working on the necessary agreements for the transfer of funds. A letter was sent to the SWIB from Joe Schaffer, Interim Dean/CEO, thanking the SWIB for their assistance. Mr. Schaffer would be please to present to the SWIB with more details regarding the goals of the program.

II. Reports and Updates

Mr. Kelly introduced Dave Morey, 21st Century Workforce Technology, Apprenticeship, and Training Bureau Chief. The new Bureau will provide oversight of the following programs: Jobs for Montana's Graduates, Apprenticeship, WIRED, Incumbent Worker, and the State Workforce

Investment Board (SWIB.) Mr. Morey was employed by Montana AFL-CIO from 1989 – 1995 as a Basic Skills Instructor for Project Challenge: Work Again. He became the Director in 1996 until 2002 when he moved to the Department of Public Health and Human Services as the Director of the Lewis and Clark Office of Public Assistance. He is a past member of the Local Concentrated Employment Program (CEP) Workforce Investment Board, Montana Council for Workforce Quality, and past Chair of the Capital Area Workforce System.

Ms. Smith reported she recently attended the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs/Administrators Winter Meeting, Workforce Development Symposium, and the National Association of Workforce Boards Annual Conference in Washington DC. Discussion at all three events revolved around the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA.) She reviewed handouts including two PowerPoint's: Workforce Development funding in the ARRA, Green Jobs; and highlights from the Implementation and Allotments for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser funding under the ARRA. She reported more guidance and details regarding ARRA will be forthcoming. Although the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program has not been reauthorized, it was expanded under ARRA. The United States Department of Labor (USDOL) strategic vision is that funds are intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery, and assist those most impacted by the recession. Funding streams for the ARRA will be kept and tracked separate from regular allocated money. Funds for a summer youth program was included in the ARRA, program operators have been discussing and preparing for the upcoming summer program. The funds will be delivered to states and local areas by utilizing the current funding formula. Congress is requesting states spend (not obligate) all funds in one year. Contracts are being sent to program operators and will be due back by April 1, 2009.

Ms. Smith announced the board will need to request an extension for the State Plan by April 15, 2009. State Plan modifications will be due June 30, 2009. Staff will be looking into the need of holding a WIA and Executive Committee meeting in early April. Unemployment Insurance (UI) already received funds from the ARRA and has begun adding an extra \$25 per UI paycheck. Estimates show the WIA funding through ARRA funds will allow for services to be extended to an additional 493 Dislocated Workers, 365 Adults, and 626 Youth.

Mr. Grove suggested the SWIB focus on the Top Ten Ways to Get Out of the Box and Make the Most of ARRA Funds as presented in the Workforce Development Funding in the ARRA handout; possibly implementing them as the SWIB guiding principles. Mr. Grove asked if the formula money needs to go through the SWIB. Ms. Smith reported the board does not have any impact on the formula driven funds. More categories of funding could be forthcoming as the state receives guidance and could possibly involve the SWIB. Gary Wright reported the State had received money but has to wait until the State Legislature passes House Bill (HB) 645 (previously HB 2a), providing authorization to spend ARRA funds. If a Program Operator is not spending their money the State has the ability to reallocate to another Operator. Funds within the Balance of State (BOS) and the CEP cannot be moved outside their regional boundaries.

Keith Kelly reported the department will be meeting with other agencies and programs to discuss the possibility of leveraging resources and creating partnerships. \$26 Million has been allocated to Montana for weatherization projects. Montana needs to ensure we develop a good foundation using ARRA funds to ensure we come out the other end after the ARRA funding expires.

Chair Miles stated the SWIB needs to be educated enough on the ARRA to advise the Governor on projects. He requested staff look into holding a briefing on the ARRA to educate the SWIB and offer an opportunity for Questions and Answers. Mr. Kelly suggested waiting until State Legislature has adjourned. Many details of the ARRA are still unknown and the department is still becoming educated on the act as they await further guidance. Pat Wise agreed in waiting

until the State Legislature passes the Governors budget and details regarding the ARRA. Chair Miles asked staff to research holding an educational session and continue discussing the topic at the March 24, 2009 chair meeting.

Mr. Kelly reported Apprenticeship Marketing position had been put on hold. With the reorganization at the Department, Mr. Kelly stated he wanted to slow down. The new 21st Century Bureau Chief could possibly have ideas for the position as well.

WIA Expanded Eligibility

Youth Program

Connie Kinsey requested support for the expansion of eligibility for the ARRA funded WIA Youth Program. Expanding the eligibility definitions will assist with the age increase of youth to age 24 and allow for increased access to services for those in need. The suggested proposal to expand WIA Youth Eligibility:

- Expand eligible youth age to 24 years old.
- Revise the 6th barrier to read:
 - a. An individual including a youth with a disability who has no vocational/employment goal and has below average grades or has a poor work history (to include no work history) or has been fired from a job in the last six calendar months; **OR**
 - b. An at-risk youth including a youth with a disability who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment and includes one or more of the following characteristics:
 - i. Native American
 - ii. Youth who “aged out of foster care”
 - iii. Migrant Youth
 - iv. Child of incarcerated parents
 - v. Court involved youth or at-risk of involvement

Mike McGinley asked if the expansion would go away after the ARRA funds were spent. Ms. Kinsey reported at this time it would, although the board could look into expanding eligibility for the standard WIA Youth Program.

Dave Crum made a motion to approve the Expansion of the WIA Youth Eligibly for use of ARRA funds. Mr. Grove seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Adult Program

Connie Kinsey requested support for the expansion of eligibility for the ARRA funded WIA Adult Program Expanding the eligibility definitions will allow for increased access to services for those in need.

The change would be applied to ARRA WIA Adult funded customers. Currently the SWIB has the priority of funds set to serve individuals at or below 80% of self-sufficiency (\$7.92.) The new proposed change would increase the priority to 100% of self-sufficiency (\$9.92) as described in the proposal below:

Revisions to the current priority of service for adults to read:

Further consideration may be given individuals who are at or less than 100% of self-sufficiency (\$9.90/hr) **and** have a barrier to self-sufficiency such as:

1. Are older workers (55+); or
2. Face language barriers; or

3. Face cultural barriers; or
4. Other individuals who are not receiving services from other programs in WIA.

Gail Richardson made a motion to approve the Expansion of the WIA Adult Eligibly for use of ARRA funds. Mary Copps seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

III. Other Business

Jeff Rupp commented he was fielding lots of requests for information about the ARRA money. He requested staff provide a chart of the ARRA funds delivered to local areas based on the formula. He asked if the formula included youth up to age 24. Mr. Wright reported the formula will use the same data used for the 2008 formula. Mr. Rupp requested the details of which data is being utilized in the formula be provided to him in writing. Mr. Wright reported he would send the requested information to Mr. Rupp and the Executive Committee.

Ms. Smith reported the committees will need to be flexible in scheduling meetings. With information and guidance moving fast from USDOL, there is the possibility of needing a meeting with short notice.

IV. Adjourn

With no further discussion, Chair Miles adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.