

Governor's State Workforce Investment Board

Red Lion Colonial Inn Hotel
Helena, Montana
May 12, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Miles, Chair; Marty Copps, Vice Chair; Dave Crum; Mike DesRosier; Connie Eissinger; Brad Eldridge; TJ Eyer (*designee for Denise Juneau*); Hank Hudson (*designee for Anna Whiting-Sorrel*); Kirk Hammerquist; Keith Kelly; Maureen Kenneally; Robbe Lindsay; Mike McGinley; Thomas McKenna; Sandi Miller; Gary Morehouse (*designee for Tony Preite*); Gail Richardson; Jeff Rupp; Pat Wise (*designee for Evan Barret*); and Linda Woods.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Elsie Arntzen; John Brueggeman; Arlene Becker; Thomas Curry; Georgia Gibbs-Atkinson; Mike Grove; Jacquie Helt; George Kipp; Rodney Miller; Mike O'Neill; Dore Schwinden (*designee*); Alan Skari; Karen Sullivan; and Jeff Tochihara

STAFF: Leisa Smith, Dan Berhardt, and Danielle Nettleton.

GUESTS: Darla Joyner, Drea Brown, Theresa McCarthy, Connie Kinsey, Kay Strayer, Todd Younkin, Gary Pemble, Billie Warford, Sheila Hogan, Patricia Hulla, Mona Amundson, Mark Maki, Lindsey Woolsey, Gary Wright, Jennifer Lawson, Dave Morey, Barb Wagner, Jamie Palagi, and Dore Schwinden.

I. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Dan Miles called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. He welcomed board members and guests. Chair Miles announced Dave Morey was recently hired as a Bureau Chief for the 21st Century Workforce Technology, Apprenticeship and Training Bureau. He announced Jennifer Lawson was recently hired as the Bureau's marketing director.

Roll call, Housekeeping, and Meeting Documents

Danielle Nettleton conducted roll call, addressed housekeeping items, and reviewed meeting materials. Chair Miles explained the committee conducts business under Roberts Rules of Order. He stated he would relax Roberts Rules to encourage active and open discussion. He reminded members of the public to state their name clearly for the accuracy of the minutes.

Agenda

Chair Miles reviewed the Agenda. Pat Wise announced Dore Schwinden would be presenting on Work Keys/Win. Keith Kelly made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended; Gail Richardson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Minutes

Chair Miles reviewed past meeting minutes from January 22, 2009. Dave Crum made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mike DesRosier seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

II. Updates

Work Keys/ Win

Dore Schwinden, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) provided a brief report on the Win/Work Keys pilot program that ran from September 2008 to March 2009. There were 1,095 students enrolled and 109 teachers and staff. Students were taught using the Win curriculum, and are currently in the process of being tested with Work Keys, which will provide a Career Readiness Certificate. Testing should be completed by graduation. The pilot project was funded with \$15,000 from Governors Discretionary Funds. Following the completion of testing, the results will be forwarded to the Governor's Office and the State Work Force Investment Board (SWIB.) After reviewing the results, the SWIB may be approached with a request to extend and expand the program. Darla Joyner, Career Transition, reported her staff looked into Win/Work Keys, employers provided good feedback but the cost was too expensive for the Community Based Organization to fund. Mr. Schwinden stated that cost is a factor being considered.

Investment in Early Childcare

Jamie Palagi, Bureau Chief, Early Childhood Services Bureau, reported on Montana's Best Beginnings Early Childhood System, which includes support to low income families and industry providers. The intention is to improve long term school readiness outcomes for all children and families in Montana: Ready Families + Ready Communities + Ready Services + Ready Schools = Children Ready for School. The recent projects are based on the Washington Foundations Study on Investments in Early Childhood: An essential industry that is both good for business and vital to Montana's economy. The full report can be found online at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hrd/childcare/>. The bureau is using research to identify what the best opportunities for children are and ensure providers are offering these opportunities. Providers can utilize the Best Beginnings quality rating system to become certified as a quality daycare provider. The system is currently being launched using federal dollars; the state will hopefully assist in the investment. The bureau hopes to do a field test by 2010.

The bureau is researching ways to expand the Early Childcare Apprenticeship program to work on the professional development of providers and their staff. Chair Miles asked if the state was developing an awareness program for employers and the idea, of some pilot projects for small businesses on ways to provide or subsidize quality care for their employees. Ms. Palagi reported the state has not developed a model to follow at this time.

More information is available online at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hrd/childcare/>.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Higher Education

Brad Eldridge, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) reported on key highlights of the \$60.5 million provided to Montana's higher education system through ARRA:

- \$8.3 million will be provided to offset the budget.
- Tribal colleges received \$900,000 to offset the cost of non native students.
- \$2 million will be provided for distance learning opportunities.
- 30% of Montana residences are outside of a reasonable distance to access learning.
- \$28.8 million was received for repair and modernizing facilities.

- \$2 million is available to create a virtual academy (high school.)
- Nationally the Pell Grant will be increased for the next two years, \$300,000 will be provided to increase opportunities for work study, and many grant opportunities will be available for campuses to apply for. The Department of Commerce will be working to increase broadband access across eastern Montana, making virtual learning easier in rural locations.

Mr. Eldridge reported the Big Sky Pathways program has been mandated to choose 5 associate degrees to align with; no decisions have been made at this time. He encouraged the SWB to engage in these discussions. The program will also be utilizing DLI's Research and Analysis (R&A) data on job and wage growth when choosing degree programs.

Chair Miles asked if "Green" Degree programs were available or being created. Mr. Eldridge reported a couple degrees were available in Montana. Discussion occurred about the possibility of receiving Unemployment Benefits while attending school. In the current downturn of the economy schools have seen an increase in applications, Flathead Valley Community College alone saw an increase of 19% alone.

Legislative Updates

Keith Kelly, DLI Commissioner reported the 2009 Legislature had two separate appropriations: General Funds and ARRA funds. Prior to the down turn in the economy Montana was expecting high revenues. The Governors new budget includes a 7% vacancy savings to reduce state spending. Unemployment Insurance received an additional \$20 million to update and modernize the tax system. The Incumbent Worker Program passed and received \$650,000 annually for small business. The Trade Adjustment and Assistance (TAA) received funds to expand and extend services.

Mr. Kelly reviewed a handout detailing the ARRA funding allotment to the Department of Labor. To view the handout please go to <http://www.swib.mt.gov/ReportsandLinks.asp>. He reported Montana received a little under \$100 million for weatherization. All state departments are working to align programs and additional funding to best serve Montana. Chair Miles encouraged the administration take advantage of the SWIB, member representation, opinions, and advice. Gary Morehouse, Department of Commerce, reported \$1.9 million was received for the New Worker program; the Incumbent Worker Program for larger businesses currently has \$1.5 million available.

Public Health and Human Services

Hank Hudson, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), reported on the departments goal for ARRA funds: Create job opportunities and reduce hardships. The department received \$300 million; \$160 million will be spent on Medicare and over the next 18 months the federal government will pay 6-7% more of participant Medicare bills. State funds saved from the federal increase will be spread across Montana for other projects. Existing programs such as food stamps also saw an increase. He reported the department received money to weatherize 1800-2500 additional homes, creating 600 new jobs, and the need for supplies at local hardware stores. Mr. Hudson reported on the tracking requirements for Recovery Act Funds.

The 2009 legislature passed SB119, allowing disabled individuals the opportunity to purchase Medicaid as a health insurance program. This allows people with disabilities to work part time and still have affordable health insurance. The State is also implementing Healthy Montana Kids by

October 1, 2009. An estimated 30,000 additional children in Montana will have insurance. If a child leaves their current insurance to participate in the program, they will be disqualified for benefits the first three months.

WIA Enrolment/ Summer Youth

Gary Wright, WIA Bureau Chief reported on the additional WIA funding through the Recovery Act. Services can be extended to approximately an additional 493 Dislocated Workers, 365 Adults, and 626 Youth. The summer youth program has not been active in the past due to funding, the Recovery Act money for the summer program must be spent by September 20, 2009. States have been directed to spend all recovery money by March 30, 2009 or it may be reallocated to other states. A minimum of 70% of funds will be spent on participants. In the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, a participant who is in training can continue to receive money through WIA if their Unemployment Funds run out.

Chair Miles reported he was arranging a meeting between local SWIB members in his area to talk with HRDC about participating in the summer youth program. He encouraged all members to do the same in their home towns.

Regional Recovery and Reemployment Forum

Due to limited time Ms. Smith reported she would include the information in the next weekly update.

III. Prioritizing Occupational Training

Todd Younkin, Research and Analysis Bureau Chief, presented a PowerPoint Presentation on "Training Montanans for the Right Job." The presentation was based on the "Occupational Prioritization for Training Model" created by Oregon Employment Department, Workforce and Economic Research Division. The model uses statistics to identify high wage and high demand jobs to focus training dollars. He briefly described the approach, primary and secondary factors to be considered, data and timeline issues, and next steps.

Mr. Younkin reported the bureau would restructure the work load and priorities if the SWIB would like the project to be perused. Evan Barrett commented the project seemed imperative with many Montanans looking for work in today's economy. Providing statistical data could aid in their search for training and new careers. Mr. Younkin announced the previous occupational projections should remain close to the same; the economy only pushed it back a few years. Economists are reporting 2008 employment levels will not be seen again until 2010-2011. The bureau reports on short term job projections annually and long term projections semi-annually. Chairman Miles stated he would work with committee chairs to best place the project. He suggested Mr. Younkin work with Mr. Eldridge in identifying 2-3 degree programs in high demand for the Career Clusters and Big Sky Pathways projects.

To view the presentation please log onto <http://www.swib.mt.gov/ReportsandLinks.asp>.

IV. Green Pathways

Lindsay Woolsey, Senior Policy Associate, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, provided a Power Point presentation on Green Jobs. The presentation covered:

- Defining Green Jobs
- Working Definitions
- Common Factors

- Projects and Legislation across the Country
- A Vision to Maximize Montana's Energy Assets
- Projects and Legislation in Montana
- How Montana will get there
- The Scale of Opportunity
- Project Objectives
- Assumptions and Parameters
- Tasks, Recommendations, and Resources

To view the presentation please log onto <http://www.swib.mt.gov/ReportsandLinks.asp>.

V. Discretionary Requests/Proposals

Jobs for Montana Graduates

Drea Brown, JMG Program Director thanked the SWIB for their previous support in acquiring Governor's WIA Set-Aside funds as match for a grant opportunity, this success assisted JMG in increased services to Montana Youth and augment goals of WIA Youth participants. JMG has been able to grow their program in many small rural communities, as well as pilot 5 middle school programs. An additional 300 plus students were able to participate in JMG. She reported the Billings program participated in the pilot project for WIN/Work Keys.

Ms. Brown requested the SWIB recommend to the Governor \$60,000 from WIA Set-Aside to continue their statewide program expansion goals, off-set overhead and indirect costs, and retain programs at their current funding levels. JMG is also in need of improving their database collection of information for high schools and middle school JMG teachers for progress tracking. The funds will also allow the JMG conferences to remain as the highlight of the student organization activities and allow students the continued opportunity to participate. The conferences have about 425 people in attendance, 325 which are students.

JMG has not received additional funding for the last 10 years. This year JMG sustained a 7% "vacancy saving" reduction and then a 2% reduction due to General Funds cuts.

Evan Barret suggested looking into using the same data tracking system as OPI, allowing similar data to be consolidated.

Jeff Rupp made a motion to recommend support for the JMG request as presented. Ms. Richardson seconded the motion which passed unanimously with one abstention: Keith Kelly.

Mr. Rupp requested the current balance and a list of funds spent from the Governors WIA Set-Aside in the last year.

MSU Northern Curriculum Proposal

Mark Maki, Director of the Apprenticeship and Training Program requested the SWIB recommend to the Governor \$44,000 working in partnership with Montana State University - Northern in pursuing the development of 6 to 8 technical study online courses that would emphasize "green energy" technology. The development of a "green curriculum" could be utilized by a multiple number of construction related occupations in such fields as plumbing, electrical, carpentry, HVAC, and other heating and cooling related occupations. The curriculum would range from basic weatherization, to solar installation, to ground water heating. The curriculum could be blended with existing required apprenticeship related instruction, or taken

as an option. The Program could issue a certificate of completion in “green technology” based on completion of all courses offered in the course of study. The green curriculum would not necessarily be exclusive to registered apprenticeship but could be utilized for incumbent worker training as a venue for journeyman upgrade. The Program would allow for industry input into the design and development of the curriculum. The Goal is to have course work going by the end of 2009.

Ms. Richardson made a motion to recommend support for the Apprenticeship request as presented. Tom McKenna seconded the motion which passed unanimously with one abstention: Keith Kelly.

Mr. Rupp asked the motion be amended to include partnering with the Montana University of Bozeman Extension Office. The Motion passed as amended.

Chair Miles expressed his concern in flooding the industry, he recommended the industries be surveyed to ensure they will buy and use the courses. He suggested the program work with other boards like plumbing to develop a certification process.

VI. Other Business

Leisa Smith reported the WIA and Executive Committees will be meeting in the near future to take action on the State Plan for submission to USDOL by June 30, 2009.

Chair Miles reported the next SWIB meeting will be held around the annual Labor Day Report in the fall. Staff encouraged board members to reapply for appointment to the State Board.

VII. Adjourn

With no further business Chair Miles adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.