

# State Workforce Investment Board

## Lifelong Learning Committee

May 30, 2012  
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Helena, MT  
Capitol Building, Room #137

**Council Members Present:** Dave Crum, Chair; Michael DesRosier; Kirk Hammerquist; Margaret Bowles (Designee OPI), Thomas McKenna; Hank Hudson (*Designee DPHHS*) and Representative Jean Price

**Council Members Absent:** Senator Buttrey; John Cech; Kim Gillan; Linda Guzik; and Vicki Judd

**Guests:** David Morey; Chris Wilhelm; Tom Kotynski; Linda Moodry; Mary Berg; Marcy Buster; Marty Copps; Marcia Horton; Michelle Dorsey; Wolf Ametsbichler; Will Stubsten, Rhonda Husby

**Staff:** Leisa Smith and Kali Wicks

### I. Welcome & Introduction

Chair Dave Crum called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. He welcomed staff, committee members, and guests. He reminded members that the committee conducts business under Roberts Rules of Order. Members of the committee and members of the public introduced themselves and identified their affiliation.

#### Housekeeping

Ms. Wicks conducted housekeeping and noted the meeting would be recorded for accuracy of the minutes.

#### Roll Call

Ms. Wicks conducted roll call and confirmed a quorum was present

#### Agenda

The Agenda was approved by consensus.

#### Minutes

Rep. Price motioned to approve the amended draft minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting, with a second from Tom McKenna. Motion carried.

### II. Informational Updates

Margaret Bowles reported on several items involving Adult Basic Education (ABE/ABLE) starting with an overview of the Adult Basic Education and Adult English Second Language programs. Next Ms. Bowles explained the new Temporary Assistance (TANF) Education

Support Grants awarded to 5 of 20 ABE programs in the state. The grant is a partnership with ABE services and Department of Public Health and Human Services to assist TANF eligible adults with ABE services during the summers of 2012 and 2013. The five grants actively recruit clientele and services are delivered via use of more advanced technology and contextualized learning approaches. Mr. Hudson expressed excitement and support from TANF program staff for these grants. Ms. Bowles concluded this segment by stating data collection system is quite sophisticated and will be able to track outcomes.

The Montana University System 's College! Now program and ABE awarded three grants to assist with bridging ABE to two-year education.. The goals are to address the skills gap in the state. Montana does not have enough high school or college graduates to fill projected job needs. Ms Bowles states that 65 to 80, 000 adults in the state are without a high school credentials. The program is modeled after Minnesota FastTrack. Montana grants will work with "tipping point" students ready to take the next step to higher education. Goals are to reduce remediation or developmental education and assist with cross-walks for students transferring to higher education. Questions arose regarding the importance of co-location of ABE programs on college campuses. Ms. Bowles stated that while co-location on a college campus has proven to be an important factor relationship development with these partners has been identified as just as important a factor. Chair Crum asked what should we be thinking about you help these clients. Comments from the public expressed that sometimes a college campus environment can be intimidating and other off campus centers can be a more comfortable transition.

### **III. Incumbent Worker Training Report**

David Morey, Bureau Chief, and Chris Wilhelm, ICW Program Manager Department of Labor (DLI), reported out on the legislative history and status of the Incumbent Worker Training Program. Approximately 700 incumbent workers have been trained since the program was implemented into law in 2009. The PowerPoint presentation can be located on the SWIB website at [www.swib.mt.gov](http://www.swib.mt.gov) under archived meetings.

Mr. Morey went on the state that DLI has submitted a US DOL Workforce Innovation Grant. Awards should be announced mid to late June.

### **IV. WIN/WORKKEYS: Community Partnerships**

Tom Kotynski, Career and Technical Education Director of Great Falls Public Schools provided an update on his efforts to pilot WIN/WorkKeys, a National Career Readiness Certificate, at Paris Gibson Alternative High School and Great Falls High. The pilot was a response to the Great Falls Workforce Initiative. Highlights include some 200 employers representing 6,000 employees have signed a letter of commitment indicating support with Benefis agreeing to provided funding to underwrite the program next year. To date, 377 certificates have been issued Mr. Kotynski also shared challenges such as cost, no stable funding source, time and effort, and expanding buy-in . Key Train is also a curriculum being used that addresses soft skills. Tomorrow's Workforce Now is a new program through ACT providing incentives for

employers to participate. The SWIB may wish to further research. Tom shared how neighboring states' are utilizing the curriculum. Committee discussion revolved around the challenges and benefits regarding continuation of the program. The Committee expressed interest in keeping this topic on their radar and recommendations were made from the public on others in the state who have experience with the program. Chair Crum requested staff look into forming a panel for the SWIB for their review and expanded discussion. The PowerPoint presentation can be located on the SWIB website at [www.swib.mt.gov](http://www.swib.mt.gov) under archived meetings.

## **V. Summer Jobs Youth Initiative**

Tom McKenna led a discussion on President Obama's new initiative as a call to action for businesses, non-profits, and government to work together to provide pathways to employment for low-income and disconnected youth in the summer of 2012 on the challenge to business leaders and communities to help provide summer youth jobs for America's Youth. Committee members discussed challenges for small business in participating but spreading the word through

## **VI. New Business**

Ms. Bowles shared the difference between WorkKeys and the Workforce Readiness Credential (WRC). This is not a competitive curriculum and is being considered by OPI and ABE division as a precursor to the WorkKeys WRC is a product of Steck Vaughn who work collaboratively with ACT. A representative has agreed to travel to Montana for the October meetings for further review and discussion. The representative could be added to the proposed panel for the SWIB in October.

Congratulations was also given to Ms. Bowles for her receipt of the Merit Award at the recent Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Conference. The theme for the conference was "Implementing Career Pathways in Adult Education." Brenda Dann-Meissier, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) was the keynote speaker. Key conference topics included: Montana's new Bridge Program, Career Pathway Models and the Role of Adult Basic Education in Economic and Workforce Development, and Integrating Education & Training through Contextualized Instruction, and the Adult Career Pathways Support Center website review of the latest information and research about ACP, resource collection of instructional materials, professional development courses, policy briefs related to developing and implementing career pathways.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 5:28.