

# State Workforce Investment Board Youth Council

September 22, 2010  
Gateway Center  
Helena, Montana

## MINUTES

**Council Members Present:** Marty Copps, Chair; Margret Bowles, Marcella Buster, Curt Campbell, Linda Cleatus, Dan Dolan, Karen Duncan, Jake Gustin, and James McDonald

**Council Members Absent:** Tescha Hawley

**Guests:** Lisa Newman, Stephanie Gray, Drea Brown, Kelly Chapman, Anne McLain, Barb Perzinski, Adrienne Piccono, Linda Brander, Sheila Hogan and Connie Kinsey

**Staff:** Dan Bernhardt

### I. Welcome & Introduction

Chair Marty Copps called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. She welcomed staff, council members, and guests, and introduced Linda Cleatus as a new member to the Council. She reminded members that the council conducts business under Roberts Rules of Order.

#### Roll Call

Mr. Bernhardt conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

#### Approval of Agenda

Chair Copps reviewed the agenda. The agenda was passed by consensus.

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Copps asked if there were any changes to the August 23, 2010 meeting minutes. Mr. Dolan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Buster seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### II. WIA Youth Update

Ms. Kinsey informed the Council that program year 2010 began in July. There was approximately \$1.9 million split between 12 MACO districts and 10 youth providers.

Ms. Kinsey reminded the Council that she had expressed concerns regarding the Literacy and Numeracy Gains performance measures. The department took the following steps to help improve the measure:

- Requested technical assistance from USDOL and had a consultant come to the youth roundtable at the technical assistance conference in April;
- Revised the basic skills assessment policy so all out-of-school youth are pre-tested using the TABE within ten days after they are enrolled in the WIA youth program;
- Review the database with the MIS officer to ensure post-testing is occurring when it should; and
- Work closely with youth providers to ensure they are post-testing within the required timelines and provide to them technical assistance as needed.

The performance report was submitted last week and Montana was one-tenth of a percentage point under the negotiated level of 80%; however, a review of the data found an additional participant that will put Montana over the negotiated level if USDOL will allow an amendment to the report.

Ms. Kinsey then reported to the Council on the summer youth program which completed on September 18. The goal was to serve 400 youth and 384 enrolled. Of those 384 enrollees, 376 were placed at a worksite for work experience. The participant wages varied between \$7.25 to \$13.97 per hour at 30 hours per week.

### **III. Math/Science Summer Project**

Ms. Newman informed the Council that the Math/Science Summer Project took place on June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and thanked the Department of Labor for co-sponsoring the event and passed out a thank you letter from Job Corps. She explained that each day was filled with 90 minute break-out sessions on various math and science topics. A survey was completed after the project and the two most popular sessions were the Mount Helena hike and the shark and perch dissection.

Suggestions from participants were to have longer sessions. 94% of the participants indicated that they learned something new and that they made new friends. The final day also included a resource fair during lunch with various partners so participants could receive information on pursuing careers in math or science.

The Council viewed a photo dvd of the event.

Mr. Campbell expressed disappointment that he couldn't get anyone to attend from his area due to the number of community events happening at the same time.

### **IV. MT Youth Restoration Partnership**

Ms. Brander informed the Council that the Montana Youth Restoration Partnership is a program that was funded by the legislature during the 2007 session. She explained the program's mission to, "Empower youth and communities to protect, conserve, and restore Montana's natural and cultural resources."

The program has the following vision(s):

- Provide opportunities for youth ages 3-24 to participate in restoration and conservation programs;
- Support programs and processes that cultivate future advocates and stewards for Montana's land and heritage;
- Promote the employability of youth by cultivating and fostering the development of career opportunities in the fields of conservation, restoration, and preservation; and
- Offer support to community organizations, school administrators, educators, youth and others who work positively to impact high school and college graduation rates through conservation, restoration, and preservation projects.

Stakeholders include the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Public Instruction, Department of Labor and Industry, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Department of Environmental Quality, Private Sector, Educators, Non-Profits, and Watersheds (there are 56 watersheds in Montana).

Ms. Bowles recommended a connection with 4-H.

## **V. MT Shared Youth Vision Vision/GED Initiative**

Ms. Bowles recommended that her time on the agenda be used as a "dress rehearsal" for the full SWIB meeting on September 23. She went over a brochure that will be handed out, and then went through the PowerPoint of the history of the initiative to where it currently is.

After general discussion, it was determined to remove a couple of slides to keep the presentation at 20 minutes for the full SWIB meeting.

Ms. Bowles informed the Council that the SWIB staff would monitor the data and that OPI data would be a standing item on the agenda.

Ms. Bowles also addressed the partner meetings and recommended having at least two regional meetings.

The Council had general discussion regarding reporting methods currently happening and various partners to be considered if SWIB recommends funding.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business discussed.

## **VII. New Business**

Ms. Buster asked Mr. Bernhardt if there was any information regarding WIN/WorkKeys that can be reported.

Mr. Bernhardt gave a brief overview of the program, and told the Council that he would send out any information he had to them.

Next meeting will occur after the core team has met and scheduled key partner regional meetings.

With no further discussion, Chair Copps adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.