

# STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD YOUTH COUNCIL

## Minutes

SEPTEMBER 25, 2014  
HELENA, MT

Council Members Present: William Hunt (Chair); John Danielson; Margaret Bowles (designee)

Council Members Absent: Fred Kellogg; Rodney Miller; Kim Ormsby; Tammy Pilcher

Guests: Lisa Newman, Suzanne Ferguson

Staff: Leisa Smith

### I. Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Smith conducted roll call. A quorum was not established. Ms. Smith went over housekeeping. Chair Hunt welcomed guests and Council members, and reminded all present that the meeting is conducted under Robert's Rules of Order. The agenda was approved by consensus.

### II. WIA/WIOA & Youth Councils

Ms. Smith discussed the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 which replaces the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. [www.doleta.gov/WIOA](http://www.doleta.gov/WIOA). The Youth Council under WIA is a subgroup of the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB). Youth councils are responsible for developing parts of the state plan related to youth; recommending eligible youth service providers; conducting oversight of youth activities, programs, and initiatives. The new Act indicates some changes to the Youth Employment and Training program most notably the increased focus of fund from 30% to 75% toward out-of-school youth and the provision of experiences such as summer jobs, pre-apprenticeship training, on-the-job training, and internships. Chair Hunt inquired into the increase and if this was appropriate for Montana. Members of the Council and guests, including youth service providers, currently serve anywhere from 50% to 65% of out-of-school youth. However, this may be more of a challenge in rural areas. The clarification was made that the youth being served are not all drop-outs but may also be unemployed or underemployed. The age requirement has also been increased from 21 to 24 years of age. USDOL is currently taking comments from States as guidance is being developed. The WIOA will not take effect until July 1, 2015.

### III. OPI/ABE Presentation (HiSET)

Margaret Bowles, State Director of the Adult Basic Education and Literacy Program, provided background information on the previous high school equivalency testing model called the GED established back in the 1940's to assist with returning veterans. The GED model/program was recently sold to a for-profit company resulting in the formation of a State Review Team to assess other options. Ms. Bowles explained the transition process and final selection of HiSET which is produced by the non-profit Educational Testing Service (ETS). [www.ETS.org](http://www.ETS.org). Ms. Bowles did make a request that the Council consider further discussing ways to provide additional promotion to the program to include debunking myths about Adult Basic Education. Chair Hunt asked if there had been outreach to the court system. Ms. Bowles stated that it had occurred but she had not received many referrals and perhaps needed more guidance on the court system to ensure information was getting to the appropriate persons. Chair Hunt stated he would check in his community to see how information is filtering down and who else might need the information as a start. Ms. Bowles also shared that work is being done to ensure the HiSET is transferable to all higher education institutions and military branches.

### IV. Jobs for Montana Graduates

John Danielson, JMG & WIA program provider presented information on the JMG program, an in-school career development and employability competency course offered in select middle and high school throughout the state. Mr. Danielson shared the conferences offered to JMG students such as Leadership and Career Development Conferences. JMG has recently partnered with the WIA Youth program to pilot service to out-of-school youth in four counties in MACO District 10. Both programs have similar goals and visions often with overlapping populations. The JMG curriculum has proven success rates and can be used for an elective or a Career Technical Education credit. JMG is affiliated with Jobs for America's Graduates, a national school-to-work program.

Mr. Danielson also requested the Youth Council to consider becoming an oversight committee for the JMG program to assist with growth strategies, impacts, best practices, and building stronger community and business partnerships, etc.

### V. Youth Council Membership

Ms. Smith presented for discussion and further consideration the need for the Youth Council to expand membership. Under current WIA Law, membership consists of a diverse set of stakeholders including representatives from youth service agencies, local public housing authorities, parents of youth seeking assistance, youth, and Job Corps representatives. Further

information can be found in WIA final regulations at 20 CFR 661.335 at:  
<http://www.doleta.gov/usworkforce/wia/act.cfm>.

The new WIOA may result in some changes to required membership such as Youth Build which is a funded program under WIOA. Montana currently has one program located at the Career Training Institute located in Helena. Other important memberships includes: foster care, juvenile justice, and youth disabilities.

#### VI. Next Steps

Chair Hunt would like to wait to schedule the next meeting until the Executive Committee has a chance to review the SWIB mission, vision, etc., along with any further guidance from the US DOL.

SWIB Staff will keep the Chair apprised of guidance and the work of the Executive Committee. Staff will begin to solicit other interested persons who could meet the membership requirements for Council consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48.