

# State Workforce Investment Board Executive Committee

**March 22, 2011  
GoTo Meeting**

**Council Members Present:** Marty Copps, Chair; Dave Crum; Mike Grove Robbe Lindsey, Mike McGinley; Pat Wise (designee); and Todd Younkin (designee)

**Council Members Absent:** all in attendance

**Guests:** Connie Kinsey, John Cech, Gary Wright, Dave Morey

**Staff:** Leisa Smith, Dan Bernhardt

## **I. Welcome and Introduction**

Todd Younkin was voted by the committee as Interim Chair. He called the meeting to order at 10:45. He welcomed staff, council members, and guests. He reminded the group that the meeting is to be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order.

### Roll Call

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

Mr. Younkin reminded the committee members and public to state their name clearly for the accuracy of the minutes.

### Housekeeping

Mr. Bernhardt informed the group of the technicalities of the GoTo process.

### Reminders

The SWIB will meet tentatively the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. Times, place, agenda, and materials will be forthcoming.

### Approval of Agenda

Mr. Younkin reviewed the agenda. The agenda was accepted as presented by consensus.

### Approve the Meeting Minutes

Mr. Younkin asked if there were any changes made to the November 30, 2010 minutes. Mr. McGinley made a motion with a second by Mr. Crum to approve the minutes. The Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

## **II. State Plan Waiver (Vetted by WIA Committee and Youth Council)**

Ms Kinsey informed the committee that the U.S. DOL/ETA has requested states submit either a extension or modification to their current WIA Wagner-Peyser State plan. WIA has not been reauthorized so this would be for a one year period only. Montana is only required to submit an extension. WIA Wagner/Peyser State Plan is due April 15<sup>th</sup>. Along with the plan extension, the Workforce Services Division would like to apply for a waiver allowing use of the Individual Training Accounts (ITA) for youth. Ms. Smith deferred to Suzanne Ferguson, WIA Programs Supervisor, who further explained the use if ITA's for youth. The use of ITA's for youth service providers would allow more opportunities to promote and encourage training as another option. Under current regulation, expenditures for ITA's are charged to the Adult of Dislocated Worker funding streams. In cases of co-enrollment, the cost is charged to limited to Adult funds. This waiver would allow older-out-of-school youth to select appropriate ITA programs from Montana's Eligible Training Provider List, while retaining their Youth classification. This will effectively help them in moving forward from high school or the GED program.

Mr. Grove asked if this waiver would jeopardize other services. Both Ms. Kinsey and Ms. Wise ensured that the waiver would provide more flexibility. Ms. Kinsey indicated that no concerns were shared by program providers and that the waiver would offer more options for serving older youth. Ms. Wise made a motion to support the submission of the waiver to USDOL with a second by Mr. Crum. The motion carried with no opposed or abstentions. The waiver will be posted on the SWIB web site for public comment and all comments will be submitted to USDOL along with the State Plan extension request by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **II. TRADE ASSISTANCE ACT COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAREER TRAINING GRANT (TAACCCT Grant)**

John Cech, Deputy Commissioner of Two Year Education, requested a grant partnership letter of support from the SWIB for the TAACCCT state consortium grant due to USDOL April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor has recently released a Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA) for the Trade Assistance Act Community College Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program. The program is intended to increase the capacity of 2-year degree granting institutions to provide training to workers who are eligible for the Trade Act Assistance (TAA) program. The Workforce Services Division of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry administers TAA on behalf of Montana workers who have lost their employment due to foreign trade. Most of those workers are located in the northwestern part of the state and were employed in the timber and wood products industry.

Only 2-year degree granting colleges are eligible to apply. The 2-year degree schools in Montana have decided to apply as a consortium. This would allow a grant of up to \$20 million over three years. The application is being written by staff at Flathead Valley Community College, and that school will be the lead applicant. The application due date is April 21.

The goal of the grant is to design courses and curricula so that working adults can enter and successfully complete the training in a short time, and go back to work in a new career. Even though the emphasis is on TAA eligible dislocated workers, the benefit of the improvements would be available to everyone. Montana is focusing on three areas. One is integration of basic academic skills with technical training. This would overcome the barrier of basic skill deficiency in an expeditious manner, therefore improving the chance of successful completion in a shorter than usual time. The standard practice is to have adult working students take basic skill improvement studies before entering into a technical training program. This could add as much

as a year to the time needed in school. Integrating basic skills with technical training has been shown to be more effective, and it takes less time. A second area of focus is to establish a network of electronic remote instruction facilities and to schedule and design course offerings at times that are convenient for the student. Most adults have obligations that often conflict with the schedules of coursework, including temporary employment. Making coursework available during times and by means that work for the adult student will increase the likelihood of success. A third area is to increase the capacity to offer certain occupational training that will lead to jobs that are in demand, particularly health care and renewable energy and conservation.

Mr. Cech also shared an approach being considered is called the "Emporium Model."

One of the problems community colleges face is the tendency to re-teach material that should have been mastered in high school. Most two- and four-year colleges administer placement tests in areas such as English and math to most incoming students to identify deficiencies. The problem is that the student merely passes or fails the test, which doesn't examine exactly where there's a deficiency. An innovative approach known as the *math emporium model* tackles this problem. Community colleges across the country are experimenting with the model which allows students to learn only the math they need to meet requirements. The students work at their own pace online, with instructors available to help. Ms. Wise voiced support for this model but also asked if Apprenticeship models would also fit. Mr. Cech stated Apprenticeship is also discussed in the grant proposal and was also pleased to state that thus far 50 employer partners had signed on. Mr. Crum inquired into the map presented by Mr. Cech illustrating TAA populations and proposed service sites and why eastern Montana was not highlighted on the map especially in regards to energy. Mr. Cech stated the requirements of the grants are to focus on hard hit TAA areas mostly which occurred in the western and southern parts of the state. Mr. Grove did comment on how it seemed that the two year school seemed to be well networked into this statewide consortia approach and could be expanded into other areas and with other population and programs at later dates. Telepresence labs would also allow for all 2 year school including tribal colleges to access and share knowledge.

Mr. Crum made a motion of support with a second by Mr. McGinley. The motion passed unanimously. No public comment was made.

### **III. Career Pathways Innovation Fund Grant Request**

Mr. Cech requested a letter of partner support from the SWIB regarding the Little Big Horn College proposal for a Career Pathways Innovation Fund Grant. In recent years, college administrators have identified the need to help low-skilled adults complete Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Education Development (GED), and industry-driven workforce education programs and earn Certificates in Vocational Trades and Associates of Applied Science credentials. To meet this need, Little Big Horn College is interested in expanding its capacity to include pathways that begin with ABE / GED / workforce education programs and lead to credit-bearing credentials and local, in-demand jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. Little Big Horn College is reaching out to employers and industry associations, government agencies, Workforce Investment Boards, labor organizations, educational agencies, community based organizations, apprenticeship programs, economic development agencies, and small business development organizations to ensure the pathways and credentialing programs it is proposing to create are relevant, needed, and do not duplicate existing programs in the Crow Indian Reservation and Big Horn County community. This opportunity would be very helpful in preparing for the Many Stars Coal-to-Liquids Project on the reservation and prepare workers for

the anticipated shortage of technicians. Mr. Crum expressed concern that certifications need to be accepted by employers. Mr. Cech stated that there has been work being done by the university system to assist with brokering business relations outside of the reservation. Ms. Wise asked about tribal college integration into the statewide higher education system. Mr. Cech stated that much progress has happened over the past three years. Ms. Copps made a motion of support with a second by Mr. McGinley. Motion passed unanimously. No public comment was offered.

#### **IV One-Stop Career Recertification Proposal (Vetted by WIA Committee)**

Mr. Bernhardt presented a Map of the Montana Certified One-Stop Systems. Staff is requesting the committee consider changes to the current One-Stop System recertification process. Mr. Bernhardt proposes to have One-Stop Systems recertified every even year for a more structured streamlined process. One stop visits can happen at any time. The One-Stop providers have been notified with no opposition. Ms. Copps was in support of more SWIB/Committee involvement and made a motion to approve with a second by Ms. Wise. The motion passed unanimously. No public comment offered.

#### **V. Operating Procedures/Bi-Laws (Vetted by WIA Committee)**

Mr. Bernhardt explained that there are updates to the current operating procedures, operating rules and bylaws. Legal counsel has advised we refer to Bylaws using the Bylaw format. Mr. Crum made a motion to support with a second by Ms. Copps. The motion passed unanimously. No public comment offered.

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#### **VI. Unfinished Business**

Committee thanked Mr. Younkin for stepping in on short notice as Interim Chair for today's meeting.

Mr. Younkin adjourned the meeting at 11:51