

Tri-County Local Workforce Investment Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 24, 2009
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Eastern Maine Development Corporation

Meeting Attendees:

Julie Johnston (Chair)	L.L. Bean
Janet Toth	City of Ellsworth
Jane Searles	Women, Work & Community
Rick Schweikert	Grasshopper Shop of Maine
Leslie Brigham	Brigham Scully
Judy Carreras	EMDC
Kitty Barbee	EMDC
Joyce Hedlund	EMCC
Jon Symonds	Penobscot Job Corps
Ed Upham	MDOL, CareerCenter
Kerry Sack	Charlotte White Center, Dover-Foxcroft
Amy Kenney	Mid-Maine Communications
Charlie Nswton	Penquis
Dick Hansen	Hansen Financial
Dawn Mealey	MDOL
Dan Tremble	Fairmount Market
Charles Rohn	Darlings
Steve Pound	Cianbro Corporation
Chris Khin	Penobscot Job Corps
Joanna Russell	TCLWIB
Michael Aube	EMDC
Jane Black	EMDC

I. Welcome

Welcome from LWIB Chair, Julie Johnston

The meeting of the Local Workforce Investment Board was called to order at approximately 2:15p.m. by Chair, Julie Johnston. Julie welcomed all attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. Consent Agenda

- a. Motion by Steve Pound; second by Tanya Pereira to accept the minutes of October 1, 2009 as presented and place on file. Approved.*

- b. Motion by Steve Pound; second by Tanya Pereira to accept the nomination of M. Jane Searles to replace Marty Duncan of Women, Work & Community to LWIB. Motion unanimously approved.*
- c. Motion by Steve Pound; second by Tanya Pereira to accept the nomination of Seamus Higgins of EMDC to Youth Council. Motion unanimously approved.*

III. Report from LWIB Director

Joanna reviewed her report which was provided in the packet.

TCWIB PROGRAM MONITORING:

November and December will be devoted to monitoring workforce programs.

November 18, 2009 MDOL's Bureau of Employment Services visited EMDC to conduct program monitoring of our True Textile and Katahdin National Emergency Grants. There were no major findings.

WIA and ARRA programs and financial records are scheduled for monitoring on December 15, 2009. The monitoring process will encompass interviews with participating individuals, review of participant files, and review of program strategies and statistics. The WIA and ARRA financial records will be reviewed by MDOL's Department of Administration and Financial Services.

WORKREADY PROGRAM:

Seven participants from the women's re-entry center completed the WorkReady program in Bangor which began on August 24, 2009. Most of the classes were held at the Tri County CareerCenter at 45 Oak Street. A number of guest speakers met with the women to provide valuable information regarding the benefits of working within specific organizations including temporary staffing agencies. Tom Fernands and Theresa Mudgett of EMDC met with the group to provide orientation and information on CareerCenter resources, federal bonding insurance for ex-offenders and other local services and resources.

BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM:

The Building Bridges program was developed to bring educators together with private sector businesses. The goal is to assist educators in gaining a better understanding of what skills and education are needed to work on the job.

Penobscot County held its first program in PY08 with the assistance of lead teacher Merle Adams from UTC. Merle organized the teachers and accompanied them to several marine industry trade businesses.

EMDC Staff are currently working to organized building bridges programs in Piscataquis County. They have reached out to the following businesses and organizations:

Piscataquis County:

Focus will be on Manufacturing and Healthcare in Piscataquis County.

Charlotte White

Mayo

JSI

Hardwood Products

True Textiles

Maine Wood Concepts

Lumbra Hardwood

Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce

Piscataquis Adult Education

EMDC staff will concentrate their efforts in Hancock County beginning in December.

AGING WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

The Tri County Workforce Investment Board partnered with the other three local boards in the state to submit a grant for the Aging Workforce Initiative under the leadership of Local Area 4 who will act as the administrator of the funds. The project is now in the development stage and will soon be recruiting members from the community.

Aging Worker Initiative Overview

The Aging Worker Initiative (AWI) seeks to expand the workforce investment system's understanding about how to best serve the older worker population and develop models to share with all local workforce investment areas. Its ultimate goal is to provide better, more expansive services to older Americans for many years to come. Grants awarded under the AWI focus on providing training and related services for individuals age 55 and older that result in employment and advancement opportunities in high growth sectors. The proposed strategies take place in the context of regional talent development efforts, and each is implemented by a strategic regional partnership.

Announcement and Thank You: the Aged Worker Navigator in the Tri County Region.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council met at Eastern Maine Community College on October 21, 2009 from 3pm-5pm.

Youth Council Update:

The Tri County Youth Council has met several times over the past months to further their mission. On June 11, 2009 the YC met for a full day workshop led by facilitator Linda Smith. The purpose of the workshop was to identify who the members of the youth council are and answer the question "why are we here". During the session mapping was done to compare the

needs of youth to the various resources available in the area. Based upon this mapping it was determined there was a need in two areas and two subcommittees were formed: 1) Grant Application Work Group and 2) Career and Work Awareness Work Group. The subcommittees met in August to scope out their potential projects and provide feedback to the entire Youth Council.

The YC met again in October and reviewed their findings. Although the group felt the findings were of interest and potentially could be projects, they wanted to take a step back and re-evaluate the purpose and mission of the YC. They felt they needed to better understand the goal of the council *prior* to making decisions on how to obtain that goal. It was decided that the current purpose would be reviewed and rewritten as necessary. The newly revised purpose will be presented at the next Council meeting which will be held on Jan. 2010.

LWIB COMMITTEE FOR ARRA TRAINING & FUND APPROVAL:

Six programs have been approved by the ARRA funding review committee.

1. Lincoln III Regional Technical School- Medical Assistant Program
2. PCs for Maine combined with WorkReady below- support service
3. WorkReady program 5 pilot programs- support service
4. Eastern Maine Community College- Medical Assistant Program
5. Eastern Maine Community College- Building Construction NCCER certificate.
6. Volunteers of America Northern New England- Work ready and NCCER training certificate.

HINCKLEY BOAT YARD NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2009

CONTACT: Ed Gilman, 202-225-6306

ASSISTANCE GRANTED FOR WORKERS AFFECTED BY LAYOFFS AT THE HINCKLEY COMPANY

WASHINGTON, DC – NOVEMBER 10, 2009, Congressman Mike Michaud praised the announcement of the U.S. Department of Labor that a National Emergency Grant (NEG) is being awarded to the Maine Department of Labor to assist workers affected by layoffs at the Hinckley Company, located in Trenton. The \$394,617 award is funded by resources made available for NEGs under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“National Emergency Grants are a vital lifeline to the people of Maine,” said Michaud. “These are tough economic times, and this funding will help provide additional assistance to the workers who have been impacted by this layoff.”

The counties of Hancock, Penobscot, and Piscataquis are the geographic areas covered by this funding, which is being administered by the Eastern Maine Development Corporation.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, National Emergency Grants are discretionary awards by the Secretary of Labor that temporarily expand service capacity at the state and local levels through time-limited funding assistance in response to significant dislocation events.

Significant events are those that create a sudden need for assistance that cannot reasonably be expected to be accommodated within the ongoing operations of the formula-funded Dislocated Worker program, including the discretionary resources reserved at the state level.

IV. LWIB members/Feedback on Mobilize Maine

Feedback included:

- Liked the way tables were arranged
- Would like to see same groups work together
- Everyone worked well and was enthusiastic
- Keep momentum going
- Great process
- Will continue to attend
- Great experience
- Have to think positive and look at assets
- Focus on what is working well
- We tend to downplay what we can accomplish
- Very engaging and involved
- Ran out of time
- Integrating Workforce and Economic Development has not been done in Maine until now
- Needs input to create solid plan
- Serving higher volume of people

V. EMDC Presentation

A presentation of EMDC Workforce Development Programs was presented by Michael Aube. A copy was provided in the packets for review.

VI. Tri County Economic Development update

Janet Toth provided information regarding what is happening in Hancock County with relation to the Workforce Development. A copy will be provided with the minutes at the next meeting.

D'arcy Main-Boyington provided highlights for the Penobscot area for the Workforce Development which includes:

- Primary types of industries in Brewer
- Manufacturing – value added

- Cancer Care of Maine opening soon
- Developing new business park (Green Energy Park)

Thomas Kittredge provided information regarding what is happening in Piscataquis County which includes:

- Manufacturing used to be larger/well known
- Workers have good work ethic
- Skills on low end
- Area for potential – wood produces
- Help existing firms to expand
- Hospitality Financing
- Potential resort projects
- Healthcare
- See more green jobs (biomass)
- Tourism

EMDC offers a precision manufacturing program but it is hard to recruit people into the program due to the following reasons:

- Skill set in demand is different
- Bring educators back into program
- Needs to be engagement with 6,7,8th grades (start at this area)
- Needs math and science

VII. ARRA update

Kitty Barbee presented information regarding the ARRA training funds.

LWIB COMMITTEE FOR ARRA TRAINING & FUND APPROVAL:

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1. Lincoln III Regional Technical School- Medical Assistant Program
2. PCs for Maine combined with WorkReady below- support service
3. WorkReady program 5 pilot programs- support service
4. Eastern Maine Community College- Medical Assistant Program (2 year program)
5. Eastern Maine Community College- Building Construction NCCER certificate. (1 year program)
6. Volunteers of America Northern New England- Work ready and NCCER training certificate. There is room for 72 people in this program.
The contract will be signed in December. A certification in construction which is nationally recognized will be awarded at the end of the program.

VIII. LWIB website update

A new website is being developed which will be more interactive than the current site. It will allow for announcements to be provided online as well as a link to facebook and twitter updates.

IX. Q & A opportunity for LWIB members (Opportunity for members to ask questions about the WIA system, CareerCenter, Service Provider, etc

At the end of each meeting time will be allowed for questions and answers.

Comments/Discussion:

Joanna Russell posed the question to the board regarding how often the LWIB wanted to meet. The next meeting was originally scheduled for December 10, 2009 however; EMDC is sponsoring an event on December 17, 2009 from 8:30 to 12:00 noon and would like to know if the board would like to move the next meeting to that date.

Topics that needs to be discussed:

- Dislocated worker information which will not be firmed up by December 10, 2009.
- Goals for 2010.
- Frequency of LWIB meetings
- ARRA funding which was already discussed at the November 24, 2009 meeting.

Motion was made by Tanya Pereira; seconded by Charles Newton to move the December 10 meeting to late January with date TBA. Motion approved.

Julie Johnston current chair of LWIB board made an announcement that after 2 years as board chair she would like to remain on the board but would like to step down as chair. Someone from the private sector should be appointed to replace Julie. Any volunteers?

X. Next LWIB meeting TBA.

Motion by Charles Newton; seconded by Tanya Pereira to adjourn the meeting at 4:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sheena Scales, EMDC