

Tri-County Local Workforce Investment Board Meeting
Wednesday March 14, 2007
8:30am-10:30am
Penobscot Job Corps Academy

Attendees: Mel Arsenault, Suz Norton, Dawn Mealey, Julie Johnston, Lisa Rancourt, Rick Schweikert, Steve Lambert, Stephanie Bunker, Jon Symonds-PJCA, Tom Lizotte, Tanya Pereira, Mike Ballesteros, Renea Muscatell, Chris Greenleaf, Ed Upham, David Klein, Karen Smith, Kathy Billings, Chris Kuhn-PJCA, Barbara Sandstrom- PJCA, Megan Sparks- PJCA, Preston Ward- PJCA, Glenon Friedmann, Jack McKay, Tim Conroy, Michelle Park

I. Welcome and introductions

II. Minutes

Minutes from 12/07/06 meeting passed unanimously with no revisions.
(Motion: Julie Johnston; Second: Chris Greenleaf)

III. NSAI Update- Michelle Park

Introduction of Michelle Park, new NSAI Liaison for the Tri-County region. Michelle was formerly a TDC employee and comes to us with years of workforce experience. Michelle gave a brief update of her work thus far w/the North Star Alliance. Right now she is concentrating on apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships and at present time has successfully set up 5 so far. She also reports 5 OJT's- 3 of which were for Moosehead Manufacturing workers. Michelle is also working on BVP's (Business Visitation Plans) which are helping her get a real feel for the industry as well as assess needs of the current employers in the area. Recently there was a NSAI Symposium which was very successful with 120 registered participants as well as some drop ins. Also Michelle is currently working with an employer that wishes to locate to Bucksport and is looking to hire 50 employees initially, with potential to grow to 300 employees. The company, Washburn & Doughty, is looking to hire mostly welders at this time.

IV. Executive Director's Report

- a. **Monitoring Update:** We are currently awaiting a letter from the feds detailing the results of the monitoring session held back in December. The highlights recognized with our programs were the efforts linking workforce development, economic development, and assets in the Tri-County area. A concern that they held was the need to focus more on youth, by invigorating our youth council, focusing

more work with youth, as well as possibly shifting our focus to out of school youth. The financial monitoring piece saw concerns with doing a better job of 'accounting for every penny spent' and requesting more detail/documentation from our service providers. Mel recently attended a financial workshop in Phoenix and brought back a lot of useful knowledge pertaining to this concern.

- b. **Planning Process:** The Maine Jobs Council (functions as the state's version of an LWIB) is currently voting to set their state goals. The policy committee was setting goals at the last meeting and will meet again on Friday to finalize the state plan. The LWIB's focus is to meld together our local plan with the goals of the state plan. After finalizing our local plan we will need to have 3 public comment sessions, one in each county we serve. The plan will then be submitted back to the Maine Job's Council for approval. Also Mel noted that EMDC is currently updating their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report. Chris Shrum will be doing 'theme meetings' to gain input from key players. It may be helpful to have a meeting to which the LWIB is invited. She will mention this to Chris.

- c. **Moosehead Manufacturing Update:** The CareerCenter is currently working with 90+ dislocated workers from Moosehead Manufacturing. Ed Upham reports that the staff and community are ramped up for this effort. The Penobscot Transition Team is putting forth a full effort by holding meetings and workshops to assist the dislocated workers. Rapid Response is holding their regular workshops, lunch and learns, etc. Tom Lizotte, Piscataquis County Commissioner, reports that there has been a great initial response to this hardship. He reports that to the community it was more than just losing a company, it was also losing that Moosehead name that has become so familiar within the community. On Monday Rapid Response held a healthcare workshop that was very well attended. Upcoming on March 25th is a community wide fundraiser.

- d. **Job Fair Updates-** Ed Upham
Ed spoke of upcoming job fairs in the region.

April 19th 10:00-1:00 in Piscataquis County at Dover-Foxcroft Academy. On April 17th they will be holding a 'job fair jumpoff' which will have staff on hand to answer questions job seekers may have about the job fair, such as what do I wear, does my resume look ok, etc. It will also serve as an informational session for vendors

re: interacting with job seekers.

Ellsworth CareerCenter recently held their job fair at the beginning of March, which was very successful

Bangor Job Fair- “Educate ME”- partnering with the Bangor Daily News and being held at the Brewer Auditorium. There will be 4 workshops and approx 60 vendors. The fair will be held on May 4th from 10-3. The following workshops will be held:

What are employers looking for in job candidates? (10:30 - 11:20)

How to complete an application and resume? (11:30 - 12:20)

Job Interview - What to wear and say? (12:30 - 1:20)

What is it like teaching kids? (1:30 - 2:30)

- e. **Expand Your Horizons:** Tomorrow Mel will be participating in Expand Your Horizons at UMO, which is a day long workshop focusing on introducing young junior high age girls to careers in math and science.
- f. **Strategic Plan:** Mel presented the group with handouts detailing the goals that the Maine Jobs Council are looking to incorporate into their plan as well as her perceived 2007 priorities for the LWIB. She asked the group to review the handouts and make decision as to where to incorporate them into our plan as we move forth. Our plan should align our work with the national, state, and local goals. Ed Upham brought up the question of where the MJC’s baseline #'s are coming from. Perhaps we should do an inventory of what we do and do not have. Mel reports that the proposed measurements are still getting worked out.

Glenon F. brought up a valid point that not all counties that we work with are made up of the same demographic or issues. For example, Hancock Cty has a lot of seasonal workers while Penobscot has more year round workers.

The State does not want to focus on healthcare at this time and is focusing more on cluster enhancement.

Jack McKay showed concern about the livable wage and what would be done to achieve this. Mel reports that Chris Hasteed is currently looking at this.

It was discussed that as an LWIB we should be tracking and looking at per county measures. The group also seemed concerned that if we adopt these goals we would be stuck with them, instead of looking at what is relevant to us. The group was assured that we will be focusing on what is relevant to us/our area.

Other concerns were:

-Health Insurance- Are there possible ways to track for statistics?

John Dorrer produces a benefit report that may be worth a look.

-How can we influence looking at healthcare- potentially fund some nursing slots for the local educational institutions?

-How does the sector focus trickle down?

A motion was made by Glenon F. to adopt the goals and tweak them with a local flavor. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the group.

V. State Update

State update given by Dawn Mealey. Last meeting Dawn spoke of two grants that the state was putting in for:

Rapid Reemployment Program- Provides workshop series for newly unemployed. Has been extremely successful thus far. Grant ends at the end of the month and they requested a continuum. This has provided significant savings to the Trust Funds.

Navigator Grant- Able ME- provided adaptive equipment to info centers to serve disabled consumers. They are looking to take the next step with staffing on outreach and how to work with disabled consumers and get them to use the info centers.

The Navigator grant was received to provide outreach to services providers as to how to effectively provide outreach to the disabled population.

Legislature is back in session and it has been recommended to appropriations that \$81,000 of GTI be cut and \$160,000 of the CareerCenter General Fund be cut.

We are still awaiting WIA Reauthorization and also the reauthorization of trade act. The TAA may become a larger piece, which would open up eligibility to dislocated workers and would change the restrictions.

VI. Performance Measures

David Klein presented this quarter's performance measures. The results show that we are doing well and the official results will come in by October. The one low category we face is the category on credentials for dislocated workers. We are doing well after the change in wage earnings for dislocated workers. David also reports that for GP the enrollment goal was for 190 people, and we are at 194. We are behind on the number of people in training, it was lower than expected.

VII. Penobscot Job Corps Academy

Our hosts for the morning, Penobscot Job Corps Academy took a few moments to introduce themselves and describe how the school is doing. Chris Kuhn reports that the focus of PJCA is work-based learning and keeping a safe center. The center has come a long way from the past and the students report feeling safe on campus, which is a great achievement.

Renea Muscatell took a moment to inform the group that she is involved with the Industry Council, which invites members of the community to give feedback on tailoring PJCA programs to meet current workforce needs. Their next meeting is April 26th and invites the group to attend if necessary.

Introductions were also given by Jon Symonds- Career Transition; Preston Ward- Admissions; and Barbara Sandstrom- Workforce Development.

Two job corps students took a moment to discuss their education at PJCA and why they were attracted to the facility. Renea then gave a tour of the campus to LWIB members who wished to attend.

VIII. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Motion to adjourn was made at approx 10:15am