

Tri-County Local Workforce Investment Board Meeting
Thursday, March 13, 2008
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Eastern Maine Development Corporation

Meeting Attendees:

Ed Upham, MDOL	Joyce Santerre, TDC
Ron Cote, Auxilar, LLC	Charlie Newton, Penquis CAP
Scott Welch, Hollywood Slots	Steve Lambert, Hollywood Slots
Leslie Brigham, Brigham Scully	Julie Johnston, L.L. Bean
Karen L. Smith, Brewer Housing Authority	Jon Farley, TDC
Greg Leavitt, Bangor Adult Education	Auta Main, MDOL
Ned McCann, MDOL	Kathy Coogan, TDC
Christine Greenleef, Maine AFL-CIO	Lisa Rancourt, Bangor Daily News
Jack McKay, Eastern Maine Labor Council	Jason Bird, TCLWIB
Kerry Sack, National Able Network	Faye Ivers, Aspire/DHHS
Gordon Stitham, Brewer Housing Authority	
Bob Rowe, Eastern Maine Community College	

III Previous Meeting Minutes

The December 2007 TCLWIB minutes were seconded and approved.

IV Ned McCann, BES Update

Ned McCann, Director of BES, MDOL introduced himself to the board and gave a short biography. He also spoke about some of the current news with MDOL and Maine's workforce. He reported that the state budget shortfall will be around \$195 million. He also stated that more cuts are likely to come. He then went into a discussion about the difficulties of the CareerCenter closings. He stated that work was being done with the Maine Jobs Council and other stakeholders to address the issue of re-delivering services in the wake of the cuts. Ned stated that the changes in service delivery will occur by June of this year. He also mentioned that those involved are looking at the situation as a way to improve upon the current method of delivery. One of the possible changes for improvement may be MDOL matching clients with job opportunities as soon as they file for unemployment benefits. MDOL recognizes that the new look in delivery services will utilize the internet more. Ned then went on to discuss the REA program and the possibility to improve upon it. There was also a discussion of the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program and its current implementation. Ned stated that people would qualify for the program if they were at 200% of the poverty line. This direct training program will give participants access to a 2-4 year degrees. As always, the aim for this program will be to build on high-wage, high-demand occupations. MDOL recognizes that this program will not be a "be all, end all" to the current workforce industry problems. However, it will fit into the larger suite of services that MDOL offers to businesses and employees. The program is

anticipated to serve a few hundred participants a year. More updates will be available on the progress of the program as the rule making is finalized. The first training will start on April 2nd.

Joanna also mentioned that the CSSP criteria for enrollment will make it so most people are eligible for the program, and to contact the career center to enroll.

V. Auta Main, CSSP

Auta main gave an introduction to the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program for board members. She explained that the roll-out of this program will occur through the CareerCenter network. She also said that the project is supported by the Maine Chamber. Pilots of this program are currently underway. Auta stated that participants in the program will be able to work towards certificate, associate, and bachelor's degree. The funding for this program starts in early April of this year. Training for staff members is currently underway.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Joanna announced that the TCLWIB received an exemplary award for the work completed by the region's plan managers. The award money received can be spent on anything WIA related. Joanna went on to discuss the current work being done surrounding the CareerCenter closings. She mentioned that the Ellsworth CareerCenter might be moving into the Higher Education Center next door. Similar relocations are being discussed in Dover-Foxcroft as well. Cross training is currently underway for plan managers and other front-line staff, as a means to improve the service delivery in the future.

VII. Old Business

Julie Johnston was voted in as board chair. Tanya Pereira was voted in as vice chair. Introductions were given for the new board members.

VIII. New Business

There was a discussion surrounding the board's role and possibly increasing responsibility to include such things as determining service providers. Joanna gave a quick break down of the current roles of not only the TCLIWB, but also EMDC and the CLEO Board.

IX. Adjourn

There being no further business, it was seconded and voted to adjourn the meeting.