

## Tri-County Workforce Investment Board

Youth Council

Wednesday April 18, 2007

1:00-3:00pm EMDC

### Attendees:

Mel Arsenault- Tri-County LWIB

Suz Norton- Tri-County LWIB

David Klein- TDC

Mary-Fran Gamage-

Renea Muscatell- Penobscot Job Corps Academy

Kristin- Penobscot Job Corps Academy

Tom Hart- JMG

Bonnie Haghkerdar- Penobscot Job Corps

- I. Group introductions were made. The group welcomed Kristin, special guest of Renea Muscatell's. Kristin is currently interning at Job Corps.

### II. Executive Director's Report-

- ✓ Kathy (as per Mel)- Issue with Job Corps being listed in the state plan, but without much emphasis. Should be focusing on work with both Job Corps centers with an emphasis on statewide focus. Steve Duvall & Garret Oswald are currently working on responses to the public comments.
- ✓ Mel touched on the creation of our local 2 year plan and how it will be sleek for now due to needing to await decisions on certain issues, but a modification will be done in the fall. We also should have our allocations by the end of the week.
- ✓ Need to continue discussions about integrating with the community college system. Mel attended a 2 day session in regards to this. We need to focus on how to best maximize resources, while still providing the best possible services and support great programs such as JMG, UB, etc. The state needs to take a look at what they can do to better utilize technology; take a look at what we can afford to lose w/out jeopardizing great service. Outcome was development of workgroups focusing on the following:
  - Look at possibly reducing the number of LWIBS in the state.
  - Look at possibly reducing the number of CareerCenters in the state

- Discussion concerning the Bureau of Rehab Services- They contract job development out- could this be kept inside the system? Why doesn't TDC hold the contract? The prior commissioner put a freeze on the number of providers for rehab services and job development, as well as they need certain certifications, such as CARF.
- ✓ NSAI Update: Michelle is doing great. We have hit the goal of 40 apprenticeships and we will have more before the quarter end. There was a question as to whether vocational high schools could access WIRED monies. There is a K-12 curriculum portion that will be introduced to schools. Educational stipend under the training bucket, OJT's, apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, LILA's & business training. The NSAI educational award application came out last week. It will be a \$5000 award for training programs. Students also can apply this to the Landing School for tuition/books, KVCC, Husson/WCCC boat school. There is no age limit.
- ✓ Youth: No monitoring feedback as of yet, but we do need to focus on out of school youth, how they are counted, getting success out of that model, and exit strategies. The question arose about the definition of in school and out of school youth. MF. Gamage provided the following information after the meeting:

Who is considered an "in-school" youth?

An eligible youth who is: attending high school, attending alternative school, attending post-secondary school and is not basic skills deficient, attending a Maine Job Corps Center to work toward a diploma/GED, or is habitually truant.

Who is considered an "out of school" youth?

An eligible youth who is a school dropout; has received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent but is basic skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed; is enrolled in post-secondary school and is basic skills deficient; is attending a Maine Job Corps Center in occupational training but is basic skills deficient; or is enrolled in adult education.

T. Hart of JMG updated the group on JMG's follow up process for their youth and reports that 87-90% of follow ups are positive. The other 10% cannot be found and/or are not motivated. The following are considered positive outcomes: schooling, military, training. D. Klein suggested perhaps there is a way for JMG to serve out of school youth? T. Hart reports that in Local Area 1 after graduation, JMG names are sent to CareerCenters for them to follow up with/touch base with the students re: qualification for WIA services. Also it was mentioned that perhaps involving Job Corps and leveraging resources there could provide a positive outcome for students. Perhaps co-enrollment with high schools? Job Corps also still struggles with their identity issue and this could serve as positive for that reason as well.

- ✓ Melmac- Mel is working with Melmac and colleges in the area re: retention of students. There are 31 high schools involved in the program and their goal is to connect aspirations to a plan. They will be RFP'ing this summer for new high schools to participate in the program. In year 1 participating schools receive \$4000 for planning, years 2-5 \$14,000 to implement. The question was posed as to whether or not Job Corps could apply? Mel asked the Youth Council to email her with recommendations of schools and she will contact Wendy Alt.
- ✓ Pre-apprenticeship/Apprenticeship- Becky Ruggiero has spoken with Dexter and Hancock Cty Tech as to whether they would be interested in pursuing a program at their schools. Dexter not interested at present time, but Hancock will be getting back to us by next week. It is important to support a few programs well for success- possibly support UTC for another year and then maybe switch to Dexter? Hancock County is important due to the WIRED tie-in.
- ✓ Marine Trades Immersion Grant- Businesses are frustrated w/the lack of skilled workers. A rolling job fair will be held this summer for adults and in the fall for students for them to gain exposure to marine trades and what employment opportunities are out there. It was discussed how we could hook out of school youth into this, perhaps through the adult portion of the program. The adult portion of the program will need to be started in early summer.

### *III. Youth Program Allocation-*

- ✓ Will be sent out with notes. There was a slight increase due to Areas of Substantial Unemployment- Piscataquis and Hancock qualified. This money will be utilized in each of those 2 counties.

### *IV. Youth Program Goals and Objectives*

- ✓ Group discussion about the Four Square Foundation and the work they have been doing around social networking and youth summits. Members were asked to ponder how as a council we could support them as it seems they haven't made much progress as of late. Contact will be made with Nancy McKechnie to find out their current status.
- ✓ The Plan- Mel touched base on the plan for the 07-09 plan modification, which will be a sleek and streamlined plan, focusing on the things we know we will be doing. Focus on the 3 sectors (biotech/med, tourism/hospitality, marine trades/boatbuilding), breakfast briefings, bridge programs, EMCC tourism/hosp. degree program and what that may look like.

## V. Job Corps Update

- ✓ Renea reports that her and some youth representatives attended the National Youth Services Day in DC.

She is looking for WIB participation w/the Job Corps in regards to participation, placement, work based learning, and recruitment. In March they held a leadership forum which was interesting. Around the US there is a proposed 4000 student slot reduction, which is the equivalent of 12 job corps closures. Renea stressed the fact that if our Job Corp isn't at capacity it becomes in jeopardy, which seems to be a nationwide issue. They need to work on effective outreach and admission. It is great that they have had excellent congressional visits and strong support. The 1<sup>st</sup> lady of Maine will be visiting on May 1<sup>st</sup> and they are concentrating on how to best maximize her visit, focusing on disengaged youth, having kids speak, and discussing Skills USA.

Renea also mentioned the Industry Council which happens twice per year. Industry advisors give input on curriculum and provide feedback on training and changing vocations.

- VI. As the meeting wrapped, there was group discussion on how to better recruit for Youth Council. This could happen by having night meetings, recruiting parents, youth, businesses, and people from the Piscataquis and Dover regions. It may be beneficial to attempt having a meeting after hours, which would make it more accessible for youth and parents.