

**Maine Jobs Council  
Bodwell Lounge  
University of Maine, Orono  
February 16, 2007**

**Minutes**

Present: Phil Dionne, Sharon Barker, Steve Pound, Kathy Coogan, Susan Swanton, Ann Beebe-Center, Barry Martin, Joanne Harris, Linda Smith, David Klein, Lisa Baldessini, Gregory Dugal, Bryant Hoffman, Suzanne Giguire, Mel Arsenault, Tom Davis, Chris Hastedt, Yvonne Davis, Mel Clarrage, Laura Fortman, Jill Duson, Kathleen Kearney, Mike Roland, Sara Standiford, Steve Duval, Garret Oswald, Tuesdi Woodworth, Debra Reitchel

Phil Dionne called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

**Committee Reports:**

**Employment of People with Disabilities Committee – Mel Clarrage**

The committee's annual report was submitted to the Governor and Legislature. Much of the report dealt with the Executive Order regarding Maine State Government as a Model Employer of People with Disabilities, and Public Law 570 "An Act to Create Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities". The committee is drafting legislation involving employer outreach and developmental disability transitions to employment.

Jill Duson passed out a copy of "Bureau of Rehabilitation Services 2005-2006 Highlights", a report that provides an overview of the current state of public vocational rehabilitation services in Maine highlighting the accomplishments and challenges of administering the system and the vital signs used to measure program performance.

**Women's Employment Issues Committee – Sharon Barker**

The committee continues to use the report released last fall as a focus on the work being done which spotlights what the current situation is for women in the workforce in Maine. The report has been and will be used as a tool to draw public attention to issues such as the wage gap between male and female workers and nontraditional occupations. Equal Pay Day is 4/3/07.

**Apprenticeship Committee - Phil Dionne (for Gene Ellis)**

Although the last apprenticeship meeting held on 1/24/07 did not have a quorum, the LEAPs (Local Employer Assistance Person) and REAPs (Regional Employer Assistance

Person) reported on apprenticeship and preapprenticeship activities in their areas. In general, the number of apprenticeships and particularly preapprenticeships has been increasing rapidly across the state. The role of minorities has been holding stable while female participation has increased slightly. The apprenticeship program is working closely with the North Star Alliance Initiative (NSAI).

**Youth Transitions Committee** – Linda Smith (for Craig Larrabee)

The committee has created a policy statement or position regarding the funding reductions for youth programs which includes a series of criteria that the committee will be asking the Governor's office, the Legislature and others to look at when they are making decisions for funding or service reductions for youth programs. Using the Maine Jobs Council, the website and other links as a mechanism and in view of declining resources, the committee hopes to create collaboration among the best existing youth advocacy programs and organizations. A complete report of the Youth Transitions Committee will be e-mailed to the MJC members by Craig Larrabee.

**Industry Association Committee** - Garret Oswald (for Lisa Martin)

The Industry Association Committee is interested in a course change. The committee is looking at new memberships and changing the committee name to Industry Partnerships in an attempt to align investments in education and economic and workforce development to take advantage of the opportunities that are happening in growth industries.

**Older Worker Committee** – Given by Garret (for Dan Muth)

John Christie, a member of the committee and counselor at the Rockland CareerCenter has been working with the Seasoned Workers Group. Attendance by older workers and senior friendly businesses at the last forum held by the Seasoned Workers Group tripled expectations. The Older Worker Committee is trying to figure out how to work with the CareerCenter system to provide that same kind of activity on a system wide basis.

Garret reported that the Workforce Cabinet is developing strategies to align resources with workforce development, economic development and education to take advantage of emerging industries and occupations.

Phil Dionne gave a report on the process followed over the past few months to develop the WIA plan and passed out a copy of the draft

Steve Duval, Policy Director for the Bureau of Employment Services, thanked the members of the policy committee for their dedication and hard work on the development on the WIA plan. Six goals were streamlined into four and benchmarks for reach those goals were proposed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the WIA Plan goals and strategies as presented by the Policy Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to grant authority to the Policy Committee to approve the individual Local Workforce Investment Board Plans. The motion passed unanimously.

The local plans will be due by 6/1/07 and will go to the Policy Committee for review and approval in mid June.

The WIA Plan will include an executive summary that outlines the process the MJC underwent to revise the goals and articulate the proposed measures as indicators; summarize initiatives underway and the progress made in support of the Governor's economic vision and focus on 17 sectors; a discussion of the North Star Alliance and efforts underway to build a demand driven system with the regional economy; economic development conference; a summary of BRAC activities; a snapshot of significant progress made to align the workforce system with education and economic development; the Workforce Cabinet strategic plan; mapping project; database, LiLas, local workforce area initiatives, etc., and a discussion of the challenges/opportunities Maine faces with reduced workforce system funding; Careercenters and community college alignment; implementation of common measures potentially WISPR; designing and launching website base and virtual Onestop services.

Kudos were given to Steve Duval for writing the WIA plan.

#### **Summary on the Changes in Carl Perkins – Yvonne Davis**

Yvonne reported that this is the sixth year of authorization for the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act. Maine has chosen to do the transition one-year plan followed up by the five-year plan. This act emphasizes rigorous academic and technical curriculum. The literacy program is in its third year with increased funding. Dual enrollments are being promoted. System to system articulation agreements are being developed as well as national standards for technical and trade programs. Funding will be split 50/50 between high school programs and post secondary education. Funding for Adult Ed will be channeled indirectly.

The MJC recognized Yvonne's years of public service as she retires from her position as Education Specialist with the Maine Department of Labor. She will become a consultant for the Schoodic Education and Research Center in Winter Harbor.

#### **CareerCenters and Community Colleges - Laura Fortman**

Labor Commissioner Fortman reported that a committee has been formed to move the Governor's vision of co-locating the CareerCenters into the community colleges. The committee members are Jane Gilbert, Larinda Meade, Jill Duson, Garret Oswald and the Local Workforce Investment Board directors. Commissioner Fortman has met with John

Fitzsimmons, President of the Maine Community College System. Other meetings with community college presidents are underway and will continue into the middle of April.

**North Star Alliance Initiative Update** - Susan Swanton, Christina Sklarz-Libby, Ginny Carroll

Susan advised that the North Star Alliance Initiative will serve as a model that can be replicated in other industries.

Commissioner Laura provided an overview of the procurement of the WIRED grant (Workforce Innovations in Regional Economies) which is the funding source for the NSAI. Christina outlined the four pillars of NSAI and their managers and some of the activities of each. The managers are:

Research and Development - Dr. Bob Lindyberg

Workforce Development - Ginny Carroll

Market Outreach - Elaine Scott

Capitalization – DECD

The USDOL expects to replicate the NSAI in other states. Christina passed out information about the First Annual Workforce Training Symposium open to employers, employees and workforce partners at the Samoset on March 8, 2007.

Ginny Carroll conducted a PowerPoint Presentation of the NSAI Workforce Pillars and the plan to coordinate workforce development, education, capitalization and marketing to establish Maine as a worldwide economic power in the boatbuilding and composite cluster. Ginny spoke of the numerous programs already underway.

Garret Oswald presented Phil Dionne a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Governor Baldacci recognizing Phil's ten years of dedicated public service.

After the main meeting, MJC members toured the Composites Building on campus, a recipient of WIRED funding for research and development of composites.