

Maine Jobs Council Meeting

October 30, 2009: 9:00 AM

Frances Perkins Room at the Central Maine Commerce Center

Maine Jobs Council minutes 10/30/09

Present; Steve Duval, Antionette Mancusi, Lisa Martin, Gerard Salvo, Jeanne Paquette, Chris Hastedt, Anne Beebe Center, Linda Smith, Ether Clenott, Craig Larrabee, Phil Bort, David Klein, Merle Davis, Sarah Standiford, Sharon Braker, Dena Winslow, Bryant Hoffman, Craig Anderson, Mel Clarrage, Mel Arsenault, Steve Pound, Meg Harvey, Phil Dionne, Laura Fortman, Gene Ellis, Robert Carr, Garret Oswald

Phil Dionne, Chair of the MJC, opened the meeting with welcomes and introductions. The minutes of the May 29, 2009 MJC meeting were reviewed and accepted with one small change to Sharon Barkers WEI Committee report. Sharon will provide revised language. Steve Pound made a motion to accept the minutes with the revision and Lisa Martin seconded the motion.

Committee reports were first on the agenda;

CDE – Mel Clarrage gave a brief update and passed out a handout with the committee's focus for the year – Develop CD&E organizational capacity, Increase effective partnerships, and Promote effective practices for serving people with disabilities.

Youth Transitions – Craig Larrabee spoke about the stakeholder project to engage 50 employers in a conversation to identify needed skills and NTOs for students. There will be four regional meetings announced in 2010.

Women's Employment Issues – Sharon Barker spoke about the Green Jobs Roundtable sponsored by the WEI committee at UMO. All welcome to attend.

Older Workers - Bryant Hoffman updated the group on the progress of the Aging Worker Grant, Silver Collar Award, and new staff for this committee.

Apprenticeship – Gene Ellis passed out a few handouts with information about the Apprenticeship program. Gene spoke about a request from the Committee, to the Governor, to restore \$131,000 to the Apprenticeship budget. There was discussion about the fiscal environment and the need for creative thinking to suggest where the funds could come from. ARRA funds are one time but the WIA 10% money is on going. Motion was made by Linda Smith and seconded by Steve Pound to send a letter to the Governor. Motion passed unanimously.

Service Delivery Committee – Garret Oswald passed out a handout with recommendations from the SDC concerning goals and strategies for serving customers with ARRA funds. The recommendations are suggestions as to a basic set of activities that should be available in each LWIB area and each CareerCenter. It was noted that even though the recommendations include increased involvement of some state agencies, the Department of Education has been, and continues to be, a very good partner to the Workforce Development System.

Veterans – Vets Committee held their first meeting on 10/13/09. Attendance was very good and the committee members are excited to work on increasing services for Vets in Maine. They will establish a meeting schedule for 2010, and will recruit members as needed.

Next up on the agenda was LWIB Reports;

Areas 1 – Dena Winslow passed out a handout describing the major activities in Area 1, including NSAI, NEG, ARRA and the Summer Youth program which was very successful.

Area 2 – No report ((Joanna Russell is on vacation)

Area 3 – Bryant Hoffman gave a handout describing the “Work in Progress” in Area 3, including grants, contracts, initiatives and summer youth program. Also included in the handout was a matrix for providing services to priority populations in Area 3.

Area 4 – Antoinette Mancusi informed the group that the RFP Appeal was over and Goodwill has been contracted to provide services in Area 4. Antoinette also mentioned that Area 4 had exceeded service goals - 344% Adult and 527% Dislocated Workers.

ARRA Activity – Commissioner Fortman spoke about the need to focus on Big Picture Issues and not just WIA. With tens of millions of dollars flowing into the state, we need to drive integration and policy recommendations for the State. Commissioner spoke about Sector focus, coordination of activities in Energy sector, posting jobs on the Maine Job Bank, and the need to maximize resources.

Mel Arsenault gave some updates about ARRA activity – we have spent \$1.7M of \$4.2M Summer Youth Money on 720 participants at 350 job sites. Mel said that job counts were being questioned – federal formula. LWIBs did a fantastic job given the short time frame they had to work with. State Monitoring was happening and Feds would also be monitoring the ARRA program and funds.

Ageing Worker Initiative - Debbie Kelly of CCWI gave an update on the AWI Grant and passed out a handout of the project partners, activities and goals. The major strategies are Educate employers on the value of Older Workers, Expand the capacity of Maine’s Workforce Investment System to provide outreach, awareness and connection of Older Workers to employers, and Connecting Older Workers to Education and Training Opportunities. The MJC Older Worker Committee serves as the steering for the grant which is for \$1,000,000 and is being administered by CCWI.

Next up was Veterans Priority of Service which was presented by David Klein. Dave reviewed the new directive and explained that Maine has developed a five year plan to serve Veterans. Dave spoke about the DVOP / LVER team and some of the activities they are currently engaged in. Dave passed out a handout explaining the Priority of Service for Veterans and eligible spouses.

Last up was a quick update on ARRA grant submissions – Maine has submitted a proposal for the State Energy Sector Partnership and one for the Health Care and High Demand Occupations grant. Both are state wide grants and will be awarded in early 2010.

Next meeting 2/19/2010. Respectfully submitted by Garret Oswald.