



## MAINE JOBS COUNCIL

### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS WORK GROUP

May 14, 2010

Present; Phil Dionne, Mel Clarrage, Peaches Bass, Steve Duval, Gary McGrane, Sarah Standiford, Gene Ellis, Susan Giguere, Phil Bort, Chris Kuhn, Steve Pound, Joanne Harris, Susan Swanton, John Farley, Jeff Fantine, Garret Oswald

On May 14, 2010, the Maine Jobs Council invited all members to participate in a work session to develop recommendations concerning the MJC and the workforce development system for the next administration.

Phil Dionne, Chair of the MJC, gave a brief history of the MJC, including timelines, organizations involved and funding strategies, including a process that was in place to make recommendations about the WIA 10% Set Aside funds. Phil then spoke about the difference between the roles of the MJC (historically) and the WIA State Workforce Investment Board, and expressed the opinion that the “MJC needs to get back to its roots.” This would involve a shift in the current roles of the full Council and the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee would be charged with dealing with all WIA related matters and making recommendations to the full council for approval. The full Council would focus on big picture workforce development system issues, like Sector Strategies to engage employers, access to education and training, and connecting with Economic Development.

Phil also spoke about the current capacity of the MJC staff related to the proposed shift in direction. At present, the MJC has 7/10ths of a fulltime position. Phil suggested the need for an additional staff person (administrative assistant), that would free up some of the MJC Directors time to respond to the new agenda.

A motion was made by Steve Pound to “Support the concept presented by MJC Chair Phil Dionne”. The motion was seconded by Gene Ellis. After some discussion including information presented by Garret Oswald about states similar to Maine (VT, MT) and how they are structured, the group voted unanimously to support the concept presented by Phil Dionne;

- MJC to focus on big picture Workforce Development System issues
- MJC Policy Committee to focus on WIA related issues and make recommendations to the MJC for approval
- MJC to request additional staff capacity from MDOL
- MJC to follow previously established process/timeline for making recommendations for WIA 10% funds;
  - December-Invite suggestions from Local Boards for set-aside;
  - January-Invite Local Area Directors and MDOL officials to present ideas;
  - February-Review proposals, and;
  - March-Vote on recommendations to send to Maine Jobs Council for action

The group then began a discussion about Accountability and the need for a report card for the system. Each federal funding stream has a set of performance measures that the individual programs must report on, but sometimes the measures do not track what we feel is important to what we as a State are trying to accomplish. Some states have established their own set of measures to address this concern. Garret Oswald spoke about Pennsylvania and the Performance Management Plan and Benchmark Report. In PA each program is held to the same set of quantitative and strategic measures;

#### *Quantitative Measures*

- Employment Outcome – Entered Employment, Retention, Earnings Increase, Efficiency, Average Weekly Wage of Exiters
- Education Outcomes – Placement in Employment or Education, Attainment of Degree or Certificate, Literacy and Numeracy Gains, Average Weekly Wage of Exiters
- Future Measures – Benefits, Customer Satisfaction, Return on Investment

#### *Strategic Measures*

- Improve PA's Competitiveness by Strengthening our Industries and building a More Skilled Workforce
- Collaboration, Shared Learning and Leverage
- Customer Friendly
- Life Long Learning
- Removing Barriers for Disadvantaged Individuals and the Disabled

After some discussion about the need for "hard numbers" and "credibility" a motion was made by Jeff Fantine to develop some form of performance report card that is broader than just WIA. The motion was seconded by Mel Clarrage. The group requested to have a copy of the PA report (to be sent out by Garret Oswald) and to continue this discussion at the next meeting, Friday 5/21/10.