

Central/Western Maine Workforce Investment Board [CWMWIB]

Executive Committee Conference Call Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2016

Attendees calling in: Muriel Mosher, Craig Nelson, Jim Trundy, Dale Morrell, Ralph Ryder
Staff: Jeff Sneddon

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by C. Nelson.

Approval of December Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were presented by C. Nelson and approved by all participating members.

CWMWIB Activities

J. Sneddon provided the Executive Committee with an update of ongoing/recent activities:

- Several “Ready2Work” occupational training programs are ongoing/pending in health care and manufacturing. An employer advisory group for the IT/IT professional industry is scheduled for January 25 at Geiger in Lewiston; the goal is to work with employers to identify their hiring needs/occupational and required skills sets to better develop relevant training and improve job seeker preparation.
- The recent hiring of a Disability Resource Coordinator to fill the vacancy at the Augusta Career Center.
- Two Peer Support Workers were hired for the VERSO Paper layoffs in Jay and will be housed at the Wilton CareerCenter for up to six months to assist the employees in the transition to unemployment. Key goals are to assist in UI applications, health care coverage, securing employment and/or accessing training to obtain future employment.
- WIOA transition at both the State and local level; not much new to report as far as new rules being implemented at the local level. The official WIOA rules will not even be available until early summer (June 2016). The due date for the State Unified Plan has been extended by USDOL to April 1, 2016. This allows the Local Boards additional time to develop their plans and will extend our due date to July 2016. The SWDB is also working on two policies that need to accompany the Unified Plan when submitted to USDOL. A new MIS replacement is pending for MDOL (AJLA) and will be implemented by year’s end.
- The Local Plan is underway; J. Sneddon is in the process of obtaining support for the writing of the plan (similar to the 2013 planning process); plans for public input and involvement will include summarizing activities and progress to date on the current plan; highlighting the new WIOA elements that need to be included in the plan and incorporating the new information into the existing plan. The Steering Committee will oversee the project and all past Board members will be invited to participate in the public meetings as well as the Chief Elected Officials and current Board members.

There was brief discussion about allied health care and the need for additional employees in numerous occupations; one of the challenges is not enough students graduating due to a lack of instructors and clinical sites.

Other Business

J. Sneddon provided an update on the required name change as a result of WIOA legislation; all local boards need to change the word “Investment” with “Development” in their name. Since our Board is strictly advisory in nature and resides within the corporate structure of the Central/Western Maine Workforce Initiatives, there were no legal forms to fill out/submit (e.g. “Assumed Trade Name”). The official name change will take effect on March 1, 2016 and will be the Central/Western Maine Workforce Development Board.

There was no other business to conduct and the meeting was adjourned.