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## ***Meeting Record March 18, 2016*** **MaineGeneral Medical Center**

**Board Members Attending:** Craig Nelson (Chair), Chris Greenleaf, Jim Trundy, Muriel Mosher, Kelly Aho, Cindy Letourneau, Razell Ward, Dale Morrell, Greg Boyd, Harvey Smith, Chris Paradis, CMCC (proxy for D. Dostie)

**Call-in Members/Guests:** Amy Landry, Elaine Makas, Dave Duguay

**Guests:** Ben Tucker, Senator King's Office; Patricia Aho, Senator Collins' Office; Peaches Bass, MDOL; Eileen Miazga, MDOL; Peter Diplock, Augusta CareerCenter

**Staff:** Jeff Sneddon, Sara McLaughlin, Harry Simones, Jane Moore

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### **Call to Order & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by C. Nelson, Board Chair, and introductions were made among all Board members and guests.

### **Approval of January Meeting Minutes**

Action Item: Motion to accept the 1/15/16 meeting minutes/M. Mosher

Second: D. Morrell

Discussion: none

Vote by members present: approved

Abstain: 0

Objection: 0

### **Sector-Partnership NEG**

J. Sneddon gave a brief overview of the grant's objective and introduced E. Miazga, MDOL Program Manager for the grant, to talk about the pending outreach plan. MDOL has announced an RFP for a multi-media campaign for the grant; proposals are currently being reviewed. Part of the plan will be to hold 3 events throughout the state that are industry specific and will be applicable to both employers and job seekers.

### **Disability Employment Initiative**

A brief summary was given by J. Sneddon to the Board about the DEI grant and then he introduced P. Bass to talk about the final year of the grant. The grant is scheduled to end by 1/31/2017 but depending on the level of available funding they may request a no-cost extension to allow more time to finish the implementation of the grant. P. Bass gave an overview of the planned activities of improving accessibility and universal design, and working with the Adult Education system to incorporate universal design into the WorkReady curriculum. Also planned is an event (asset summit) focused on financial independence for persons with disabilities, which is planned for June 1026 and will be held in Augusta at the new Bangor Savings Bank. She indicated that while the state as a whole has a low unemployment rate (3.9%) the rate of unemployment for persons with disabilities remains quite high at 15%, we need to work closer with this population to improve their opportunities to secure employment and to help address the labor shortage that Maine is experiencing.

### **Fiscal Report**

S. McLaughlin presented the WIA/WIOA Program Budget Report YTD for PY14 & PY15 and a copy of the report was distributed to the Board for review. The PY14 grant is approximately 99% expended and the PY15 budget is approximately 25% expended.

Action Item: Motion to accept the WIA/WIOA Program Budget Report as presented/R. Ward

Second: M. Mosher

Discussion: none

Vote by members present: approved

Abstain: 0

Objection: 0

C. Nelson mentioned that many times federal grants end up having too narrow a focus and should be allowed to reallocate unexpended grant funds based on the needs of the region where the funding is dedicated.

### **Executive Director's Report**

J. Sneddon updated the Board about the targeted industries and the ongoing workforce development activities supporting these sectors. CWMWDB is working with manufacturing, health care, and information technology professionals. The first meeting for the information technology employers' group was held on January 25, 2016 with 18 employers attending and several educators from the region. The Ready2Work academies continue in the health care and manufacturing sectors, with another cohort of welders in training at the New England School of Metalwork.

J. Sneddon briefed the Board on the WIOA transition at both the State and local level; the development of the State Unified Plan has been a significant part of the transition and has been submitted to USDOL for review and approval. He has begun the Local Planning process and will have three focus groups (Education/Service Providers; Employers; Economic Development/Chambers of Commerce/Business Associations) to meet in April or May to provide input on the revised WIOA Local Plan.

A summary was given by C. Greenleaf about the Rapid Response (RR) activities: as a result of the recent UTC layoff RR effort, 89 people accessed training and 131 obtained employment. The lay-off at Verso Paper in Jay resulted in approximately 208 workers laid off instead of 300; 31 retired; 58 found employment; 59 are in job search; 48 have signed up for training and 12 have not responded. Madison Paper recently announced that they plan to close and approximately 214 people will be laid off in June.

### **Other Business**

J. Sneddon mentioned to the Board that due to the new WIOA rules, the name of Board has been officially changed to the Central/Western Maine Workforce Development Board; the term "Investment" has been replaced with "Development" and was effective as of March 1, 2016.

No other business was conducted and the meeting was adjourned.