

**STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS RETENTION COMMITTEE
RED LION COLONIAL HOTEL
ROOM: CLARK**

Staff: Suzanne Payton & Penney Clark

1:00	Welcome & Introductions	Dick Brown
	Update committee charge and goals <i>-Committee Discussion</i> <i>-Public Comment</i> <i>-Committee Consensus</i>	
	NGA Policy Academy Update <i>-Committee Discussion</i> <i>-Public Comment</i> <i>-Committee Consensus</i>	Ingrid Childress
	H-1B Technical Skills Grants <i>-Committee Discussion</i> <i>-Public Comment</i> <i>-Committee Consensus</i>	
	Results from the National Business Engagement Consortium <i>-Committee Discussion</i> <i>-Public Comment</i> <i>-Committee Consensus</i>	Kathy Yankoff
	Discussion: - Primary Sector Business Training Act	Dave Gibson
2:45	Adjourn	
3:00	Report to full board	Dick Brown

If auxiliary aids and services or special accommodations are required, please contact
Penney Clark at 444-4100.

Issue: Committee Goals, Charge, and Duties

Committee: Economic Development and Business Retention

Date: September 4, 2003

Overview:

As the committee moves forward with its charge, a review of the committee's goals and duties should be conducted to assess progress made and determine a direction for the committee into the future.

Existing Charge and Duties:

Committee Charge

To coordinate the work of the board with the state's economic development strategy and to ensure that the strategy is communicated to the local boards and used in the evaluation of quality of local plans. Also, to conduct studies and analyses, as necessary, to determine the needs of Montana's employers and the workforce development strategies that are required to meet those needs.

Duties

- Collect, analyze and publish quality "intelligence" about Montana's workforce and about connections between high skills and good pay
- Develop strategies for retaining businesses in the state
- Develop strategies for retaining skilled workers in the state
- Collaborate with the Economic Development Action Group and others to build a common strategy on workforce solutions
- Engage employers of the state, in a sector-by-sector approach, to determine the specific needs of each sector and to recommend strategies to address the needs
- Determine the priority training needs of the state's employers and direct state training funds to those needs

Action Needed:

Discuss existing charge and duties, and recommend changes to the full board as necessary.

Options:

1. Establish a timeline for completing the committee's stated duties.
2. Narrow the focus of the committee's duties to one or two items for the remainder of FY 2004 and prioritize goals for 2005.
3. Broaden the focus of the committee's duties and establish a timeline to measure progress.
4. Keep the existing charge and duties.
5. Another option determined by the board.

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ISSUE: H-1B TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: Economic Development and Business Retention

DATE: September 4, 2003

OVERVIEW:

The United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration has made \$200 million available for businesses to train workers for high technology occupations. \$50 million will be awarded directly to Business-Led partnerships for this purpose and approximately \$150 million is available to Local Workforce Investment Boards partnering with business.

The grants were developed in response to industry concerns about the shortage of skilled workers in the technology industry. Many US companies bring in workers from other countries, under a H-1B visa to work on technology projects. These grants are designed to help business train US workers in the high technology skills to reduce the need to import workers from abroad and to lessen the skill gap between their current workers and the work that needs to be done.

WIB/Business Partnership Eligible applicants for this portion of the funding (\$150 million) are WIBs who represent a public/private partnership that is comprised of at least one local WIB, one business or business-related nonprofit organization and one community/faith-based organization or higher education institution or labor union. The solicitation for these partnerships is ongoing, therefore, there is not an application deadline. Grantees must provide non-federal resources equal to at least 50% of the grant award as a match. This may be shared among partners with at least 50% being contributed by business or business-related nonprofit organizations.

Business-Led Partnership Partnerships consist of at least two businesses or a business-related non profit. Partnerships may also include any local WIB or educational, labor, or community/faith based organization. Applicants must demonstrate that they can provide non-federal resources equal to 100% of the grant award as a match. At least 50% of the match will be contributed by business.

OPTIONS:

1. Recommend that the local WIB's partner with businesses in targeted industries to apply for the WIB/Business Partnership.
2. Recommend that the local WIB's partner with businesses in targeted industries to apply for the Business-Led Partnership.
3. Recommend that the local WIB's distribute information to businesses about this opportunity.

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