

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS RETENTION COMMITTEE (CONFERENCE CALL) WALT SULLIVAN BUILDING FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM APRIL 6, 2004

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Brown

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Lew Grill, Diane Ruff and Lyle Phillips

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Arlene Becker, Caroline Brown, Susan Christofferson, Vicki Cocchiarella, Jim Davison, Chuck Olson, Donald Steinbeisser.

STAFF: Pam Watson, Penney Clark

GUESTS: Gary Warren

I. Call to Order

Chairman, Dick Brown, called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

II. Welcome and Roll Call

Dick Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and summarized the agenda. Roll call was conducted and a quorum established.

III. Desiree Taggart Memorial Award Nomination

The Committee proposed nominating David Gibson for the first Desiree Taggart Memorial Award. Pam Watson announced that in addition to the nomination and supporting documentation the committee received prior to the call, Sheila Stearns, Commissioner of Higher Education, also submitted a letter of support that will be attached to the nomination. All Committee members agreed that this is a well-deserved nomination for David Gibson. Lew Grill moved to submit the nomination of David Gibson for the Desiree Taggart Memorial Award, Diane Ruff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Committee Support of Economic Impact Study

Chairman Brown reported to the committee that he and staff from the Research and Analysis Bureau, Department of Labor and Industry, met with Dr. Steve Seninger at the University of Montana in Missoula, to begin working on an economic impact study of the health care industry in Montana. He also reported that this issue is being brought before the committee because if the study proves to be beneficial, the Economic Development Committee may want to recommend endorsing or participating in conducting similar studies in other industries. Chairman Brown stated that one of the objectives of the study is to determine workforce staff shortages in the healthcare industry. This is in alignment with the SWIB's Goals and Objectives for 2004 of advancing workforce development, and with their advisory responsibility to the Governor. For example, the Economic Development Committee could determine the workforce staff shortages identified in the study, and relay that information to the Workforce System Committee for review and presentation to the Board. The SWIB could then report to the Governor those

occupations within the cluster that are experiencing, and also very importantly, predicting to experience, worker shortages. The Accountability Committee would then play a role in the process by determining if the SWIB is being responsive to businesses' current and emerging needs.

The Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity has identified three clusters on which to initially focus their efforts, which are the Health Care Industry Cluster, the Wood Products Industry Cluster, and the Creative Arts Industry Cluster. The decision to conduct the economic impact study in the health care industry is in alignment with one of the industries the Governor's Office has decided to focus on, so is a good fit.

The committee agreed to recommend the State Workforce Investment Board endorse the study, and offer financial assistance if there was appropriate funding available. Various options for funding assistance were discussed, including working with Gary Warren from the Workforce Programs Bureau with the Department of Labor and Industry to possibly obtain funding from the WIA administrative budget, which has funding available for statistical research projects. Pam Watson and Gary Warren will research and provide information on additional funding that might be available to assist with the study. The Committee would like to see the report completed and ready for presentation to the SWIB at the meeting on September 2nd, which will be held in conjunction with the Governor's Labor Day Report.

Lyle Phillips moved that the Committee support the Economic Impact Study of Hospitals, Diane Ruff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

Information was provided to the Committee regarding alternatives for future meetings. The Flathead Regional Business Center welcomed the opportunity for the Committee to hold their next meeting in the Kalispell area, engage in a tour of their facility, and hear presentations from the business partners. There was discussion about also scheduling a conference call from Kalispell for those committee members who are unable to make the trip to Kalispell, but would like to attend a short overview of the meeting via conference call after the tour and business partner presentation. Lyle Phillips offered to arrange a tour of Columbia Falls Aluminum in conjunction with the meeting. Pam Watson will contact all members of the Committee and try to arrange a date during the latter part of June.

The National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors (NASTAD) will be holding their annual meeting July 19-23 in Billings. Mark Maki, Director of Montana Apprenticeship and Training, is also the National Director of NASTAD. He has extended an invitation to the Committee to attend that meeting and learn more about Apprenticeship best practices in other states, what some of the new and emerging apprenticeable occupations may be, and get a better understanding of the impact apprenticeship has on economic and workforce development. Pam Watson will work with Mark Maki to provide a tentative agenda to the Committee and information relative to registration fees.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.