



**Youth Council Meeting  
September 30, 2015  
3-5pm**

**NOTES**

I. Welcome & Introductions

Present:

Karen Smith (Brewer Housing Authority)  
Denise Smith (EMDC)  
Kerrie Brooker (Bureau of Rehab Services)  
Tom Grogan (Wings)  
Mary-Anne Saxl (Penobscot Job Corps)  
Amie Howard (DHHS)

Staff:

Joanna Russell and Patty Caswell (TCWIB)

Absent:

Tim Baker  
Laurie Dumond  
Joleene Fagan  
Nikki Fletcher (excused)  
Marsha Higgins  
Kathy Miller  
Joanna Morrison  
Joyce Santerre

II. Youth Council – Feedback on July 1, 2015 notes

Joanna explained that, at each meeting, feedback on the notes would be welcome.

**The youth council will provide expertise in youth policy and assist the Local Board in:**

- **Developing and coordinating a four year strategic plan outlining services and resources specific to the younger workforce;**
- **Developing and recommending local youth employment and training policy and practice;**
- **Broadening the youth employment and training focus in the community to incorporate a youth development perspective;**

- **Establishing linkages with other organizations serving youth in the local area;**
- **Taking into account a range of issues that can have an impact on the success of youth in the labor market.**

### III. EMDC Youth Program Update

Denise Smith gave an update on WIOA effect on Youth Programs.

- WIOA has expanded Career Compass (12 to 15 week program) that serves the youth from ages 16-21 will now expand to ages 16-24. They are planning on blending the 22-24 year olds into some adult programs.
- WIOA directs that 75% of the youth to be served (raised from 50%).
- WIOA extended service elements from 10 to 15. (See items 11-15 on the hand out.)
- Career Compass program already includes most of these elements so the transition should be smooth.
- WIOA requires 20% of youth be in work experience program.
- More difficult for some areas to implement than others.
- Service economically disadvantaged youth.
- WIOA will expand their ability to make more services available and integrate programs.
- Denise handed out a program description for Career Compass to the group (See attached).

Denise spoke about the poverty workshops that have been attended by EMDC colleagues. Joanna suggested that the Donna Beegle information on poverty be included in the development of this council.

Joanna asked how the TCWIB board can assist each member of the group in facilitating coordination of efforts. She offered TCWIB website page(s) to capture and catalog referral information.

### IV. EMDC Youth Program Development and Strategic Planning

Identification of resources – development of programs – identify who is missing from the table. Youth Council development.

- The logistics for training; members of the group agreed to invest in a full day.
- Denise thinks that an inclusion of the poverty education for employers would be good – the more understanding of what each person is doing and what they need for reporting. Needs assessment. What areas or topics you need from training.
- The Youth Council needs a new chairperson.
- Need topics and who should be there.
  - Include employers
- Why should you care what the other people in the group are doing? Why am I here?
- Get employers to come – poverty awareness.
- Youth needs to be represented at the table.
- Employers need to understand mental health issues. (Trauma)

#### V. State Workforce Investment Board Youth Committee Report

- Denise is Chair of the Younger Worker Committee – Their role is to advise the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) on needs/issues. The challenge is to get good data to find out what younger workers are doing as they leave high school. What jobs are they getting? Are they getting more schooling?
- Joanna described what WIOA changed in the make-up of the TCWIB Board. Now some of the previous board members are sitting on One-Stop Partner meetings.

#### VI. EPIC Maine 2016 Planning Schedule-Committees

- Exploring Pathways to Industries & Careers will be held on April 8, 2016 (all-day event) at Beal College and Fields for Kids.
- Representatives of different areas of work: welders, bank managers, hospitals/healthcare, law enforcement, etc. will have booths.
- Joanna asked that each member check with their agency/entity about having a presence at the event. Youth services would be a good place for the group members to step forward.
- Gives a chance for employers and job seekers to speak to each other about their expectations.

- Education and Training representatives will be there as well so job seekers can find out what might be available. (Tech schools, Job Corps, etc.)
- Need to develop the best way to get feedback from attendees of EPIC Maine.
- Think about either serving yourself or finding someone else from your organization to serve on a committee for EPIC Maine.

## VII. Youth Council Development

- Brainstorm a pilot program to service that community. Pregnant and Parenting is an example of good programs.
- Get mentors to be part of the process.
- Eligibility requirements – so you know who to recommend to who. Use TCWIB website to give that info to you. We can build a page. Quick reference guide. How can we effectively find the connections between organizations? Both Tom and Mary-Anne have had some experience with putting together this kind of information. How do we become the Google of youth services in the area? Develop tool to share services and eligibility. Best practices – is there anything out there already? Asset mapping.
- Food, housing, counseling, schooling, getting ready to get a job, what do specific individuals really need?
- Community connections: Councils – Outreach (town hall meetings) – Mentoring – Disability Awareness – Work readiness – Experiential Learning (What is it like to be blind? What is it like to have one arm?) Look at things from both sides of the desk.
- Need youth, parents, mentors, employers and service providers at the table to make it work.
- Youth = young adults and teenagers (find another term?)
- Attitudinal barriers – pity, assumptions, stereotypes, knowing how to accommodate.
- Find a similar language for youth and employers.
- Role on the council description to be re-evaluated.
- Needs assessment (participants and employers).

### ACTION ITEMS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

1. Joanna will give overview of the youth workforce history.
2. How can we weave the services together? Needs assessment.
3. Get your colleagues to tell you their needs/concerns to inform the group.
4. Be able to iterate what your organization is bringing to the table.

#### VIII. Partner Program Update

Mary-Anne stated that a Workforce Council will meet twice a year focused on Job Corps. Subcommittees will be reporting to them on Industry, Education, and Employment Training – **Mary-Anne will send out the info to all.** Please think about whom to invite.

**Joanna to contact Jeff about having a representative from Juvenile Justice on the Youth Council.**