



Youth Council Meeting
July 9, 2014• 3:00–5:00
Bangor Savings Bank, Eames Learning
Center, Bangor Maine

Members in attendance:

Nicole Fletcher, Chair; Laurie Dumond, LL Bean; Denise Smith, EMDC; Jack Lacey (parent); Tom Grogan, Wings / CSSP Coordinator; Melissa Harvey, Penobscot Job Corps; Angela Oechsle, TCWIB program assistant; and Joanna Russell, TCWIB executive director.

- I. Chair Fletcher called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. Members went around the room and introduced themselves. New member Laurie Dumond was recognized. Thanks for joining!
- II. April 8, 2014 meeting minutes were reviewed.

MOTION: Denise Smith made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Melissa Harvey. Motion carried.

III. EPIC Outcome / Report

The [report](#) contained in the meeting packet was discussed. Chair Fletcher explained how we had a debriefing meeting on May 19, 2014 with all the partners. During the meeting successes and challenges, statistics on numbers of attendees, and feedback from surveys were discussed. Then there was a brainstorming session as to whether all were in favor of a 2nd Annual EPIC MAINE and what changes may need to be made before the next event. It was unanimous to host EPIC Maine 2.0

Finally, a date was identified for next years' EPIC Maine in the Tri County Area:

April 9, 2015

The Council decided that hosting a focus group with partners to determine venue location is first priority. Once a venue is set, the next important step would be the sponsorship piece as well as applying for the large grants & making the deadlines.

IV. EMDC Youth Program Update

EMDC's Denise Smith gave a report on the current youth enrolled, performance outcomes for the quarter as well as updates on Career Compass and other programming. EMDC Youth Force is planning more cohort trainings. The Career Compass class is planning to attend Donna Beegle's workshop on poverty. A discussion took place regarding pre-testing and post-testing in order to realize gains. A student must achieve at least one educational level.

They are updating the website to be more visual and of interest to youth including adding "selfies" and fun information about the career advisors such as what their favorite movies are; their interests, etc.

EMDC is also hiring another career advisor. A few interviews have taken place and they hope to make a decision by Monday. Jason Aylmer, the AmeriCorps volunteer who has been working with Denise for the past six months has applied.

Action item: Denise will send the info on Donna Beegle to TCWIB staff so we can send out to LWIB and interested parties. Denise will also send information on the parenting classes.

V. TCWIB & AWWIB transition update

Joanna discussed the current transition and explained what it means. There will still be two distinct local workforce investment boards. They will remain separate. The Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs) designated NMDC as the fiscal agent. Joanna and Angela make up the administrative unit overseeing and providing support to each board. The transition is a response to an attempt to streamline costs and efficiencies within the system. Where appropriate competitive grant applications may include both areas, in order to make a stronger proposal and serve more individuals.

An opportunity to attend the board development work session scheduled for October 2, 2014 was presented. Youth Council members are invited to attend.

Note: if you elect to attend this session in East Millinocket, you may waive attendance for the regular quarterly meeting on October 8th.

VI. WIA system refresher

A brief discussion occurred on Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the portion of the law governing youth councils. A copy of the WIA Youth Program Reference Tool was provided. Additionally, copies of the Youth Council Purpose and 10 elements were discussed.

VII. Partner updates

Some partners gave updates on workforce development related activities as well as current efforts and events happening in their organizations:

Tom Grogan, CSSP / Wings – new Capehart is seeing expanded involvement and activity. Residents are planning a neighborhood party and neighborhood watch; and exploring the possibility of establishing a youth group. They have already met several times and attendance has grown. The disconnected will be match with supports and resources and troubled families will be helped.

Densie Smith, EMDC – in addition to the update given earlier Denise explained that the organization tries to link people up with the transportation, childcare and supportive assistance they need. They collaborate on the Lynx grant ensuring rides to work and training get set in place.

Melissa Harvey, Penobscot Job Corps – currently quiet on center as the students are on break. This week a staff retreat and training took place. They are revamping training achievement records to all trades, so the instructors are reviewing curriculums. They are at full capacity enrollment. (Graduation upcoming) They will need to recruit more females into the program. In the future, the possibility of phasing out commuter population is something they may consider.

Jack Lacey, parent – His son, who is a WIA participant has encouraged him to keep attending the youth council meetings.

VIII. Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA)

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will reauthorize WIA and a summary sheet on key improvements from the current law was provided to inform the council. It is set to pass congress this week. We'll keep you informed.

IX. Monitoring PY 13

Upcoming monitoring was discussed. Like last year, we would like to conduct focus groups in each service area with participants and would ask for volunteers from the board and youth council. Chair Fletcher asked for any volunteers. Tom Grogan said he would like to do the Bangor session. Nicole Fletcher also volunteered. Others will check their calendars and get back to Joanna.

X. Other business: WIA Youth Sixth Barrier (definition/ policy)

An overview of the eligibility criteria for WIA youth was discussed. Joanna explained that the Local Workforce Investment Board is charged with defining the 6th barrier. Formally presented as the "youth in need of additional assistance policy" it was too broad and MDOL's policy analyst asked that we provide a more specific definition.

The DRAFT document was provided and reviewed.

MOTION: Melissa Harvey made a motion to accept the Sixth Barrier definition policy and recommend it be adopted by the full TCWIB. Tom Grogan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

XI. Next steps / Action items

Joanna will follow up with communications about the EPIC Planning Committee

Joanna will connect with University of Maine Orono to inquire about partnering on and space for hosting EPIC Maine.

Next meeting will be October 8th from 3-5pm. Chair Fletcher offered to host the meeting at the Bangor Savings Bank location again.

Youth Council members also have the opportunity to attend the board development session on Oct. 2, 2014 10-3 in East Millinocket at the Katahdin Region Higher Education Center. All are invited, just let Angela and Joanna know if you plan to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.