



## **Youth Council Meeting**

July 1, 2015 • 3:00–5:00  
Bangor Savings Eames Learning Center-  
Bangor

### **Members in attendance:**

Nicole Fletcher, Chair; Mary Anne Saxl, Penobscot Job Corps; Karen Smith, Brewer Housing Authority; Amie Howard, DHHS Foster Care Caseworker; Tom Grogan, Wings; and Joanna Russell, TCWIB Executive Director

**Guest:** Kristin Ludwig, Apple Core Consultant and EPIC Maine Coordinator

### **I. Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Fletcher called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

### **II. We did not need to vote to approve minutes.**

### **III. EPIC Maine Report**

Kristin Ludwig provided a summary and report on the outcomes of EPIC Maine 2015.  
(See attached reports)

#### **LOOK FOR EPIC Maine 2016- April 8, 2016**

- The EPIC Maine planning committee decided on the following points for 2016:
- Beal college would like to be more involved with outreach, setup, etc.
- Keep 2 sessions: youth and young adult in am, and unemployed and underemployed in afternoon (add underemployed).
- Schedule more demonstrations, even brief demos in F4K.
- In the afternoon include skills match-ups (transferable) and skill assessment.
- Make Resource Room more user-friendly (see above).
- Sell the cost savings to schools early (when they are doing budgets) = NOW
- Include more direction to attendees; i.e. Step 1 Visit employers on the floor. Step 2 Visit resource room if you need information on additional training, financial aid. Step 3, etc. Have a passport for attendees for businesses to mark when attendee has visited them.

- Attendees must see a certain number of businesses, etc. to be entered for the door prize.
- Ask for more specific feedback from attendees.
- **Schedule EPICMaine2016! Epic Maine will be hosted at Beal College/Fields4Kids on Friday April 8, 2016**

#### **IV. EMDC Report**

EMDC provided a program performance update. The group reviewed the performance report and discussed eligibility and changes occurring under the new law, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, (WIOIA). Denice Smith and Jon Farley were not able to attend.

#### **V. State Workforce Investment Board- Youth Committee- Denice Smith was unable to attend the meeting.**

#### **VI. WIOA Transition and Update**

TCWIB executive director reported that the SWIB held a three day workshop including partners from all over the state. The outcome was a State vision, objectives and strategies which will be included in the new strategic plan.

#### **New State Strategic Vision for 2020:**

*Maine leads in talent, technology and innovation, attracting investment from all over the world. We partner strategically to compete globally. Our renowned work ethic, culture and innovative approach to learning and working meets the needs of the global economy, creating a strong sense of community and quality of life. As a result, Maine's economy and communities are thriving.*

*Maine's economy is fueled by an education system which is inclusive and meets the needs of diverse learners. Through partnership with industries and the workforce development system Maine workers are continuously well prepared with the skills necessary to succeed in current and future careers.*

*The Maine workforce development system is a highly visible, easily-accessed network of programs and activities designed to increase the employment, retention and earnings of Maine workers. It is data- and demand-driven providing multiple points of seamless entry and service for job seekers and workers requiring help to obtain, maintain and advance employment. It supports the attainment of recognized credentials which result in an improved quality of the workforce, meets the skill requirements of employers, and enhances the productivity and competitiveness of Maine.*

#### **VII. Board and Committee Development**

TCWIB executive director discussed the upcoming strategic plan development which must take place in Local Area 2. All agreed that coordinating a board and youth council development day will be critical to assuring that everyone in our area understands our workforce system, and exactly what resources and services are available to them. TCWIB director will meet with the TCWIB executive committee to make recommendations to

coordinate a development workshop for the TCWIB and all supporting committees. Upon their approval we will make recommendations to the TCWIB and the CLEOS. Upon their approval we will begin the planning process. The TCWIB is required to submit a new four year strategic plan demonstrating collaboration and transparency.

### **VIII. Partner Program Updates**

- a. Tom Grogan, Wings:** Tom shared with the group that he had a recent discussion with someone who sent their child to the workforce program and had a very positive experience. Tom agreed to follow up with the parent and the youth to see if they would like to participate on the youth council.  
**(Joanna suggested that we inform all individuals who we try to recruit that it is beneficial to them and the youth council if they are able to attend for at least four meetings, or, one year. )**
- b. Amie Howard, DHHS Foster Care:** Amie explained that she has one other colleague who works with her to provide services to youth ranging in the ages that qualify for services under WIOA. She is enthusiastic about developing a partnership and working with the youth council.
- c. Karen Smith, Brewer Housing Authority:** Karen reported that the community center is busy and programs are progressing. She explained that they are looking at other grant opportunities.

**Next Steps:** Tom Grogan agreed to reach out to the parent and youth to inquire about their interest in joining the youth council. Nikki Fletcher agree to ask Ryan (Bangor Savings employee) and Trade Winds to see if they would be interested in joining the youth council. Joanna will check with Denise Smith about recruiting Career Compass employers to join EPIC Maine.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday September 30, 2015 from 3pm to 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.