



northeastern

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

MARCH 10, 2017 TO APRIL 10, 2017

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Danny MacDonald, Director of Caribou Adult Education RSU 39 – April 4, 2017

P-7 Please explain “Ticket to Work.”

Answer: Ticket to Work is a free and voluntary program that can help Social Security beneficiaries go to work, get a good job that may lead to a career, and become financially independent, all while they keep their Medicare or Medicaid. Individuals who receive Social Security benefits because of a disability and are age 18 through 64 probably already qualify for the program.

Section 2-H – Suggested “I suggest discussing the makeup of the Board, business involvement in One Stop Partners meetings, sector partnerships, career pathways development etc.”

Answer: The strategies on this section were re-written and See Section 2D for more detailed information was added.

Section 4-F – Suggested the addition of Appendix X from the Maine State Strategic Plan.

Answer: Added the suggested appendix and renamed it Appendix 16 for the NWDB Strategic Plan.

Section 4-N – Suggested the referral to NWDB Policy #003 – Local Definition of Youth Requires Additional Assistance.

Answer: Added the suggested policy - “See Appendix 15 - NWDB Policy #003”

2. **Dona R. Saucier**, Executive Director - April 6, 2017

Greater Area Fort Kent Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for the opportunity to sit in on the presentation this morning. I wish I could have stayed until the end, but I had to be in Caribou for 10am in order for that meeting to have a quorum.

I wanted to stay because I was wondering if the topic would come up in the group discussion about employee retention. I’m not sure if that fits in with this or not, but I wanted to just plant the seed if it should ever come up as a barrier with employers.

I say this because I’ve witnessed businesses train employees only to see them leave there and head for higher paying jobs or more exciting communities (more to do) elsewhere. (*I must admit, I did the same when I first graduated – got a rather mundane job, received a certification and training through my employer which boosted my resume then left the state for something a bit more interesting. This agency had a revolving door problem with many people doing as I had done. In my defense though, I did move back and have paid for all other training/certifications since. J*)

In my role, I pay closer attention to people visiting/moving and trying to keep them from leaving - or come back to the area and/or stay put - that is where my mind went to this morning. I've watched people move here and struggle with life as a newcomer in a rural area, and for a lot of them, I've watched them pack up and move away again – leaving their employer to hire and train someone new.

It really doesn't seem to fit in the overall picture of workforce development; however, as you start to look at barriers later on down the road, I'd like to suggest you keep this in mind. Just wanted to throw that out there and again – thank you for the great discussion today.

3. Jen Peters from Sunrise County Economic Council - April 4, 2017

The Labor Force Participation Rate, 2015 graph on page 13 looks like the NWDB Region is half of Maine and the USA. Jim explained that it is because the scale is ranged from 56%-64%. Jen suggested that the range be adjusted so that it looks more accurate at a glance.

Answer: Graph was changed – see below

Labor Force Participation Rate, 2015
(civilian population 16 years and over)

