

NWDB Executive Committee Update for November 2019

1. We need you all to review the minutes from the last meeting and hopefully approve for posting.
2. Our next NWDB meeting is December 12, 2019 and I will secure a site in Hancock County, most likely Ellsworth.
3. We have hired a new program assistant, Rebecca (Becca) Bryant. She started work on Tuesday October 15, 2019. She comes with a very strong background in management, supervision, administration, some policy development and over all retail experience. She is from the area. She will be working side by side with me for the next few months trying to get settled with workforce development, our region, our partners and our program providers, contracts and services. Lot's to learn.
4. We hosted our event for job seekers on October 16, 2019 focusing on how to navigate the "rap sheet". The rsvp list had 35 people. We had 50 people attend at Eastern Maine Community College. It was mostly attended by service providers, probation officers, and educators. We had about 8 job seekers who really fueled the conversation for all. The meeting was a great success. We will hold our second event this week November 6, 2019 in Houlton Maine for Aroostook and Washington counties. The event will be held at the Millar Civic Center from 10:00am to 1:30pm. We will use the same agenda and mostly the same speakers with except recovery presentations will be done by local providers and people in recovery. We already have requests to host more workshop of this nature. I asked both Jim Woodside and Amy Sneirson if we could use their PPTs to continue the presentations and they both agreed to allow for us to use their information.
5. FYI--I am coordinating a Chief Elected Officials' meeting in Bangor on Thursday November 21, 2019. We have not nailed down a time yet. I am wondering if you (executive committee would like to attend? ...either in person or via Zoom?) Sara McLaughlin will do a comprehensive review of our PY18 and PY19 budgets. Jon Farley and Erin Benson will provide a review of program outcomes and future strategies.
6. FYI--I am in the process of coordinating a strategic planning meeting for the SWB. Chris Quint has asked the three local board directors to assist with participant recruitment and outreach. We have identified November 14, 2019 from 10:30-1:30 for the date and time.
7. Rob Brown from the Cooperative Development Institute would like to present information to the NWDB focusing his information on succession planning and helping business owners planning retirement to look at employee buyout options prior to shutting the doors. There are many planning opportunities for a business owner to prepare for retirement. I have met multiple times with Rob Brown and Jon Farley to discuss running a pilot project in three of the five counties. Rob has also presented his information to MDOL with the idea of possibly using Rapid Response funding as a strategy to provide layoff aversion. **I would like to put Rob on the NWDB's December agenda if you approve. I need to know your thoughts...I think the information is timely and very interesting.**