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It is MEDA's privilege to submit this report for the current contract to Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Department of Labor and Industry and Montana BEAR Team participants regarding Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Program activity in the state. The following is a summary of MEDA BEAR activities as provided for in the Scope of Work under Amended Contract MT-MEDA-ED-12-01 for the month of June 2016.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR JUNE 2016 MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

KICKOFF OF BADLANDS BEAR

On June 8th, Badlands BEAR, part of Eastern Plains Economic Development Council, launched to a great crowd of volunteers, perspective clients, and new resource contacts. The “Business Alive” event was organized by BEAR Team members Amy Deines, Glendive Job Service; Chris Whitlatch, Glendive Chamber; Cathy Kirkpatrick, Dawson Co. EDC; and Kathy McLane, Mid-Rivers Communications. The purpose of the gathering was to inform employers of programs and partnerships with IWT, GOED, BEAR, and the MDLI Apprenticeship Program. Presenters included Liz Ching, Chris Wilhelm, Bo Bruinsma, and Gloria O’Rourke.



Amy Deines



Cathy Kirkpatrick



Chris Whitlatch

Learn more ~ Badlands BEAR http://epedc.com/badlands_bear.html

IWT ~ FISCAL YEAR 2017 BEGINS!

As of July 1st, funds were once again made available for Incumbent Worker Training Grants. In case it has been awhile since you viewed the qualifications, please take a few moments to visit the website and refresh your memory. <http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/employers/incumbent-worker-training-program>

REMEMBERING BEAR TEAM MEMBER JOHN BALSAM



John Balsam (first on left, back row) with his SBDC colleagues; a longtime partner with BEAR, MEDA, SBIR....and countless friends.

Our SBDC partners and the Kalispell BEAR Team were dealt a tremendous loss July 2nd with the passing of John Balsam. Throughout BEAR Team Trainings, there has always been a great emphasis on the importance of establishing relationships.

Relationships are needed between business owners, educators, government representatives, economic developers and resource partners. John Balsam could not help but forge partnerships and relationships everywhere he went, throughout each and every day. John was John: everyone’s friend.

He is already missed by many.

BEAR TEAM OUTREACH FOR June

Nine visits were recorded in June with the following Outreach Specialists participating:

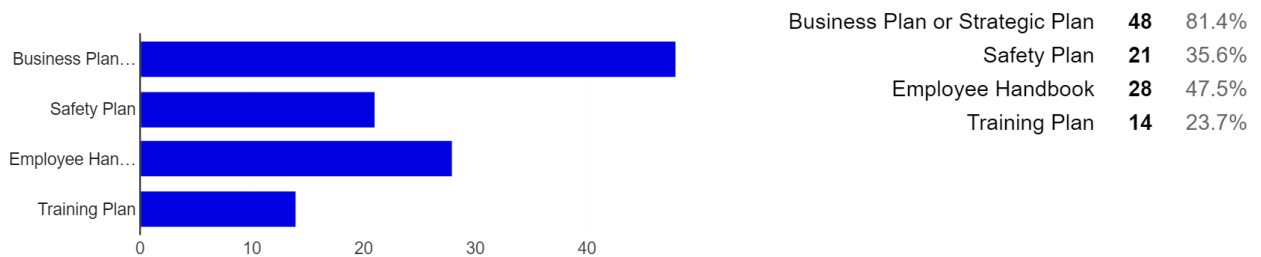
Katie Weaver – 1	Meagan Lannan -1	Joel Bertolino - 1
Mora McCarthy – 3	Chany Ockert - 1	Michelle Twist - 1
Krista Lammers - 1	Rick Schalk - 1	Karl Janovits – 1
Cal Boyle – 1	Kristy McKay - 1	Jim Davison - 1

Counties Represented:

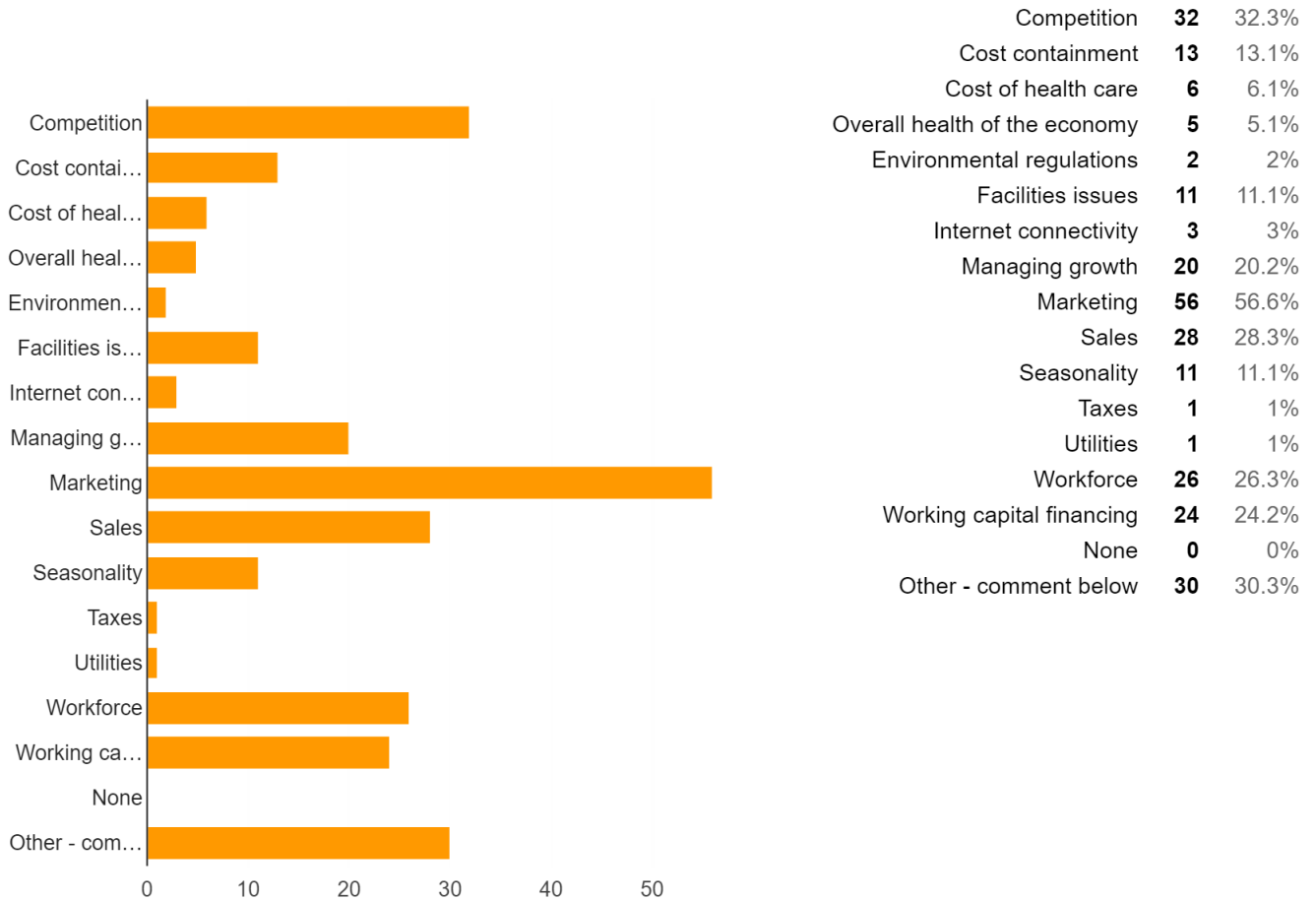
Carbon – 1, Flathead – 4, Ravalli – 1, Park – 1, Butte/Silver Bow – 1, Anaconda/Deer Lodge - 1

Data collected to date:

Do you have the following in place?



What are your top business challenges?



GREAT EVENT FOR BEAR TEAMS AND CLIENTS:

Peer-to-Peer iMT Symposium



The iMT Symposium is all about overcoming obstacles for those involved with business in (and out of) Montana. The agenda is packed with national presenters, breakout sessions, networking opportunities, unique networking meals, along with Solution Lounges to provide one-on-one mentoring sessions with attendees. July 13 – 14, in Billings.

[Agenda](#) [Registration](#) [Breakouts](#) [Solution Lounge Sign-Up](#)