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It is MEDA's privilege to submit this report for the current contract to the Governor's Office of Economic Development, 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 October 2014.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2014

MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BEAR at MEDA

The MEDA Fall Conference showcased BEAR in several ways: [Next Generation BEAR](#), Traditional BEAR, and SBDC - all of which access MDLI Incumbent Worker Training. Debra Demarias provided information on the MDOC/Worker Training Program that is available through MT Dept. of Commerce/CDBG Program. Warren Vaughan, Gallatin County BEAR, shared the model of his next generation BEAR team. Emphasis is placed on matching business owner's needs with a strong and responsive resource group. Mike Jackson, Kalispell Job Service, shared the traditional model of BEAR and gave examples of how easy it is to obtain referrals for a BEAR visit. Lorene Hintz, Great Northern Development Corp., shared how she uses IWTG to assist businesses that come through the SBDC program.



L to R: Mike Jackson, Kalispell Job Service; Warren Vaughan, Gallatin County/Bozeman BEAR; Debra Demarais, [MDOC/CDBG](#); Lorene Hintz, Great Northern Development/SBDC.

Lunch and Learn Webinars: The third Lunch and Learn Webinar will take place Wednesday, November 19th at Noon. There were about 15 participants for the second webinar; feedback was very positive. These sessions help users maximize the BEAR database and keep apprised of the continual updates that are being made.

Date/All times at Noon	Webinar Info	Topic
Wednesday November 19 th Noon	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/893913565 Use your microphone and speakers (VoIP) Or, call in using your telephone. Dial +1 (646) 749-3122 Access Code: 893-913-565 Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting Meeting ID: 893-913-565	Reports and Analytics. This session will focus on getting reports and analytics out of the BEAR database. Review both user-defined and custom reports for a variety of purposes. You'll see how to easily generate these reports and then export, print, e-mail and even map them.
Wednesday	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/737111317	This session will focus on advanced group

December 17 th Noon	Use your microphone and speakers (VoIP) Or, call in using your telephone. Dial +1 (646) 749-3122 Access Code: 737-111-317 Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting Meeting ID: 737-111-317	and communication features in the BEAR platform. You'll learn how to create groups and communicate with these groups efficiently using integrated system functions.
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IWT: Chris Wilhelm recently reminded everyone that IWT applications will soon be submitted online only. This change should take place in January 2015. For now, forms must be used for each application and are available at <http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/service/iwtagents.asp>

Data Highlights for October

- There were 29 BEAR Retention Visits held in October. Wow!
- Counties with retention visits: Flathead – 4, Gallatin – 9, Missoula – 3, Lake - 1, Park – 7, Butte/Silver Bow – 1, Ravalli – 2, and Stillwater County - 2.
- Action Items: The following numbers reflect Action Items that were conducted for businesses across Montana, meaning a Bear Team member made a referral to assist a business. If the Action Item was completed, meaning the referral was able to contact the business and provide assistance, the Action Item becomes closed.

Location	Action Items
Gallatin County	16
Missoula	1
Park County	12

- **October Outreach Specialist Visits and Business Updates**

The following BEAR Team members completed Business Retention Surveys and/or update reports for the businesses they have contacted.

KiKi Huls - 2	Chris Parson - 1	Joel Bertolino - 1
Jimmie Rude - 2	Jillann Knutson - 1	Denise Rabe - 1
Deborah Derrick Gass - 1	Dale Mahugh - 1	Warren Vaughan - 9
Vickie Steele - 2	Mike Williams - 2	Mike Jackson – 3
Marissa Heggem - 1	Marissa Hauge - 2	Jodie Rasmussen - 2

Did you have to miss the MEDA Conference? Check out the photos and [files here](#).