

MEDA NextGen Workforce Committee

December 9, 2020

9am

Participants: Kelly Creswell, Raymond Brown, Brian Obert, Tracy McIntyre, Russ Fletcher, Kathleen O’Leary, Nisan Burbidge, Nicole Rush, Davey Madison, Austin Trunkle, Christina Henderson, Anne Boothe, Steve Arveschoug, Mary Craigle, and Gloria O’Rourke

1. How we got here

Rick Edwards welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a brief overview of the formation of this group. The Next Generation of Community and Economic Development Tools report was a catalyst for creating this group.

2. **Introductions** including what you hope to gain from participating in this working group.

Name	Agency or Program	Interest
Kelly Creswell	REACH Higher MT – intermediary for MT Youth Apprenticeship.	More awareness and better connections to share her programs do to meet workforce needs.
Brian Obert	MBAC and Helena Wins	Workforce recruitment
Kathleen O’Leary	Deputy Commissioner MTDLI	Improve outreach with groups such as MEDA to share what MDLI brings to the table; offer programs as well as access to data.
Davey Madison	MCDC	Interested in supporting worker co-ops.
Anne Boothe	Montana Rural Freelance	Remote Worker Working Group chair and listening in for Montana State Library.
Christina Henderson	MT High Tech Business Alliance	Address barriers to growth in tech companies; need access to talent. In 2021 seeking systemic approach to map out career pathways and provide info to public.
Nicole Rush	Missoula Economic Partnership	Increase collaboration between Missoula companies, education

		institutions, and government reps locally to connect. Move the needle on developing new programs to meet the needs of employers. Info sharing so that work done by economic development partners is shared. Increase resources for workforce attraction.
Tracy McIntyre	MCDC	Compiling a Labor Pool Co-op. Assist existing co-ops with workforce; using College of Great Falls for accounting professionals and MUS regarding a curriculum for co-ops as a business model.
Raymond Brown	Sanders County Community Development	Seeking general knowledge and how-to of pulling stakeholders together.
Austin Trunkle	Big Sky EDA reporting for Billings Works	Continue engagement with SD2, focus on school age students. Also focus on trades – need dry wallers, painters, etc. Talent attraction is also key and tie it in to Big Sky EDA programs.
Steve Arveschoug	Big Sky EDA	Billings Works number one issue is talent. Montana needs to fund career technical options. Talent retention and attraction is essential. Incentives for the retention of our talent. Issue #1 to drive Montana's economy!
Russ Fletcher	MATR	Come Home Montana began 20 years ago to bring our workers home. Use MATR to post jobs and opportunities. Broadband

		is an issue; the NextGen Broadband Committee needs to work hand in hand with this committee.
Nisan Burbridge	Work Strategies MDLI	Seeking ways to increase partnerships, leverage existing resources, move programs forward.
Mary Craigle		Interested in sharing data and moving this work forward.

3. Setting focus areas

- Learn of data available to describe Montana’s workforce issues.
- Talent Attraction
 - What programs are available
 - What do we need?
- Talent Retention
 - What programs are available
 - What do we need?
- Workforce Development
 - What programs are available
 - What do we need?
- THEN set goals and strategies to fill gaps.

4. Chair and adding to the group

Gloria will organize meetings, take notes, and post resources on the group website. Gloria will reach out to Montana Chamber for participation in this group as well as OPI and the Montana Indian Business Alliance. Kathleen will invite someone from SWIB to participate.

Nicole Rush and Mary Craigle will serve as co-chairs.

5. Misc., Next meeting and agenda

- a. Misc: December 16th an Employer Town Hall Meeting will be held regarding impacts from COVID.
- b. Meet again within the next 10 days; Gloria will send a notice once Nicole and Mary agree on a date.
- c. Next agenda:
 - i. Steve and Austin will give an overview of workforce highlights from the NextGen report
 - ii. Brainstorm to add details to the focus areas listed above.