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 August 2012.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2012

PLEASE KEEP SENDING YOUR FEEDBACK
Several of you have sent feedback and identified glitches in the ExecutivePulse software update. Laith Wardi said that he appreciates receiving this information so that bugs can be addressed and removed. The sooner you report them, the sooner they can be fixed. Thank you for sending them my way!

Laith Wardi also suggested holding a webinar on the practical inputting of a visit, referral, contact list, etc. Stay tuned for a date and time.

BEAR TEAMS TO NETWORK
BEAR Teams will meet for a networking session during breakfast, the morning of October 3rd, during the MEDA Fall Conference. The agenda and registration for the conference are now available.

HELENA OUTREACH SPECIALIST TRAINING
Joe McClure, Montana Business Assistance Connection, coordinated a BEAR training with a focus on Outreach Specialists. The training was held on August 22nd, at MBAC, in Helena. If your BEAR Team has a need for focused training, please call the office at 406.563.5259.

OUTREACH VISITS AUGUST
Sixteen visits were recorded by outreach specialists in August:

Andy Zdinak 1
Angie McDonald 1
Bill Nicholson 1
Bob Giese 1
Carrie Mantooth 1
Cassie Strauss 3
Chad Moore 2
Dale Detrick 1
DeAnn Thomas 1
George Palmer 3
JR Strand 1
Michael D. Morrison 1
Mike Jackson 6
Vida Wilkinson 1
BUSINESSES INTERESTED IN IWT GRANTS
Fourteen of the sixteen businesses visited in August were interested in IWT Grant Funds.

CURRENT WORKFORCE CHALLENGES
Out of the 16 business visits, the following workforce challenges were listed

MARKETING AND SALES GROWTH NEEDS
CURRENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS

TOP THREE BUSINESS CHALLENGES