

MAIN STREET MONTANA PROJECT

A BUSINESS PLAN *For Montana by Montanans*

Main Street Montana Project June 30, 2016 Non-Profit KIN Meeting Minutes Montana Department of Commerce, Room 226

Attendees:

Liz Moore – Montana Nonprofit Association
Bob Wilmouth – Rocky Mountain College
Ted Madden – Montana Healthcare Foundation
Glenn Marx - Montana Association of Land Trusts
Kurt Alme – Yellowstone Boys & Girls Club
Michelle Belknap- Easter Seals Goodwill of Northern Rocky Mountains
Barb Gilskey - Human Resources Development Council 6 (HRDC6)
Kelly Bruggeman – First Interstate Foundation
Jasyn Harrington - Career Training Institute
Gina Heckey- Foundation for Community Care
Judy Held - Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana
Heather O’Loughlin - Montana Budget & Policy Center
Alison Paul - Montana Legal Services Association
Mary Rutherford - Montana Community Foundation
Steve Arveschoug - Big Sky Economic Development Authority and Corporation
Rhonda Safford- Student Assistance Foundation
Chantel Sheiffer – Leadership Montana
Fran Sadowski - Missoula Developmental Services Corporation

Staff:

Amanda Casey – Governor’s Office
Mary Craigle – Montana Department of Commerce
Tom Kaiserski – Montana Department of Commerce

9:30 AM Team Building Exercise

9:45 AM

Introductions of KIN Members beginning with Chairs, Liz Moore and Bob Wilmouth. Lieutenant Governor Cooney introduces himself and gives a brief explanation of his history with the Main Street Montana Project. LG Cooney explains the expectations of the KIN and thanks all the members for being part of the Main Street Montana Project.

Preliminary comments and discussion begins with members of the KIN and facilitator, Mary Craige.

10:00 AM

Tom Kaiserski, Montana Department of Commerce, delivers presentation and a brief history of the Main Street Montana Project. Mary Craige gives an overview of the Main Street Montana Project with a brief history of how the project started and an explanation of pillars:

1. Workforce Development
2. Create a climate that attracts, retains and grows business
3. Build upon Montana's economic foundation
4. Market Montana
5. Nurture emerging industries and encourage innovation

10:15 AM If you were granted one wish that would help the Non-Profit sector, what would that be?

Mary Craige asks the KIN members to give their opinion of what could help the Non-Profit sector flourish. Co-Chair Bob Wilmouth asked "What would the Governor's Office like to come out of this KIN?" The Governor has asked that each KIN come up with four to five recommendations that can help MT become a better state.

Ideas that came out of the discussion:

- State promotes low-profit (LC3) benefit business-new structure for sustainability
- Increase encouragement of philanthropy (will lead to economic stability)
- Promoting the economic vibrancy-make non-profit industry known
- Create a policy advisor within the Governor's Office
- Non-Profit business into business navigator (Small Business KIN)
- Address/review non-profit regulations as a task force/advisor
- Examine other models for tax incentives such as other states
- Keep focus on building the economy as center to work
- How can we fund programs?
- Are non-profits valued in this state? Group is undervalued
- Look at Montana University System for college degree in the non-profit sector
- State reimbursement of benefits/packages make it tough to pay payable wages to employees
- Make career stackable and have tracks provide livable wage jobs
- Collaborate with shared resources for non-profit businesses-share expenses (tax incentives)

- Non-profits thrive when the state thrives—fiscal support/strategic investments
- Engage regional philanthropy organizations
- Leadership training
- Leadership Montana collaboration
- National sponsorship
- Affordable broadband
- Youth advisory board within the Department of Public Health and Human Services

Ideas that came out of the discussion: (continued)

- Volunteerism within school system
- Understanding economic stance

11:40 AM Lunch

12:10 PM

Setting the context discussion facilitated by Mary Craigle. Montana Economy presentation—group discussion over Montana’s economy.

12:30 PM Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) Assessing our current state
The group engaged in a SWOT analysis of the nonprofit sector. Notes from this exercise will be reflected in the Nonprofit KIN project plan

1:45 PM Prioritizing issue areas and actions for KIN across Main Street Montana Project five pillars. Notes from this exercise will be reflected in the Nonprofit KIN project plan.

Overreaching themes of MSMP

- Growing Montana economically
 - Enhancing the Non-Profit ecosystem– (includes many parts including workforce, funding, philanthropy which are highlighted in the topic areas)
1. Workforce Development (Pillar 1)
 2. Policy Position (Pillar 2)
 3. Elevating the Non-Profit Sector (Pillars 1,4,5)
 4. Organizational sustainability (Pillar 5)

2:30 PM Discussion of expectation of next meeting and formation of subgroups.

2:50 PM Wrap of meeting and what to expect at next meeting.