

1. Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Meeting in Glendive: Job Service (Lonnie Cross and Steve Olson) and Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation (Jason Rittal) collaborated to provide an informational meeting and training session about BEAR in Glendive on December 1st. Gloria and Mike O'Rourke, Montana Economic Development Association (MEDA), presented to a dozen attenders, including Shannon Kadrmas from Glendive Job Service Workforce Center, and Vernetta Torgerson and Jacklyn Damm from Sidney Job Service. Work continues to develop and build a BEAR team to benefit business in the Glendive area. Any interested persons contact Lonnie or Steve!
2. Inter-Region Cooperation and Cross Training: The mass layoff at the Stillwater Mine provided opportunity for the Workforce Services Division to practice inter-Region cooperation in December. Livingston Job Service put out a call for assistance with the Rapid Response for Stillwater, and the one-on-one follow up with laid off workers. Shannon Kadrmas from Glendive Job Service traveled to Big Timber and spent December 7th through 10th lending a hand to approximately 50 individuals with resume writing and job search.
3. Sage Graduation: Connie Balcer, Dawn Guenzi, Lonnie Cross and Steve Olson attended the Sage Truck Driving School's graduation at Dawson Community College on December 17th. Seven students graduated from the training this session. All were assisted with their tuition through the WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) Program. A total of \$24,500 was spent collectively by Glendive, Sidney and Glasgow JSWCs to educate and put to work these people in just a few short months. We continue to look for short-term training opportunities in any energy-related field.
4. Monitoring of our Employment Services and Veterans Programs: Jim Hill came to monitor the employment services and services to veterans provided through the Glendive Job Service Workforce Center. We were found to be doing a good job in these areas.
5. Healthy Communities Coalition: The Job Service Workforce Center plays an important role in creating and maintaining community health through development of a trained workforce and jobs to support that workforce. Job Service staff members have been consistently attending the monthly DCHCC meeting, and have been included in the brochure and pamphlet published by Mary Moore, Director of DCHCC.
6. Veterans Priority of Service: Job Service, through federal Wagner-Peyser legislation, is required to provide priority service to veterans. The final rule on (slight) modification of definitions in this legislation has been published, and Job Service staff will be learning the specifics in a training session on Thursday.
7. GoTo Meetings: Workforce Services Division has been using GoTo Meeting (similar to Adobe Connect) as a means of gathering to meet without traveling. The meeting is similar to a conference call with the addition of use of a computer screen so all attenders can see computer applications that are being discussed, or power point slides. There is also capability of incorporating webcams so attenders and presenter can see one another. GoTo meeting has been used quite extensively in the last few months and with notable success.
8. Connie Balcer Retired: After 29 years of service, Connie retired on December 31st. She did not want any kind of enormous party (our preference, of course!) so we honored her on her last day by having a very small gathering of her immediate family and co-workers past and present. We are going to miss her indescribably! Anyone who did not get a chance to wish her well could still send a note to 507 Juniper, FP or balcer@midrivers.com

JOB SERVICE CORE VALUES: ♦ Customer Focus ♦ Individual Responsibility
♦ Individual Growth ♦ Ethics in the Workplace ♦ Continuous Improvement