



A Private-Public Partnership Serving Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties
222 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4628
Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2008

WDB Chair, Mary Oudsema called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. at the Three Rivers Michigan Works Service Center, 16587 Enterprise Drive, Three Rivers, Michigan.

Members Present: Omar Alston (For Kim Luther [DOC]), Rick Anderson (Labor), Cathi Annis (Econ Dev), Dennis Berkebile (PS), Thom Brennan (PS), Diane Donovan (PS), Don Edgerly (PS), Susan Einspahr (PS), Margaret Gagen (CBO), Joe Herdus (PS), Chris Kadulski (DHS), Ellen Kisinger-Rothi (CBO), Mary Oudsema (PS), Casey Putnam (Educ), Jack Urban (At-Large), Barry Visel (PS)

Members Absent: David Allen (PS), Robin Baker (At-Large), Bill Farmer (Labor), Lisa Godfrey (PS), Jim Harrington (Educ), Erv Heidbrink (Labor), Jerry Love (PS), Linda Marcon (PS), Shelby Meyer (PS), Marilyn Potgiesser (PS), Armando Romero (PS), Steward Sandstrom (PS),

MW Staff Present: Jeanne Konrad, Kathy Olsen, Craig Schreuder, Kara Stewart, Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh, Bob Straits

Guests Present: Karen Carlisle (Y.O.U./KRESA), John Davis (DHS), Ron Fuller (KRESA), Bob Harrison (LMC), Tim McGann (LMC), Dolly Roselip (Y.O.U./KRESA), Bruce Snook (River City Journal), Eric Stewart (Y.O.U./KRESA), Cincy Sullivan (Y.O.U./KRESA)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Thom Brennan and supported by Dennis Berkebile to approve the WDB meeting minutes of February 7, 2008 and the WDB Executive Committee meeting minutes of April 3, 2008. Motion carried.

STAFF and COMMITTEE REPORTS

Workforce Development Plans – Craig Schreuder reported one proposal was received in response to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program Request for Proposal. MW admin staff and members of the RFP Committee agreed to have Youth Opportunities Unlimited, a division of KRESA, continue as the service provider for the WIA Youth Program.

Road Construction Apprenticeship Readiness (RCAR) Training Program – Kathy Olsen reported the RCAR Training Program is designed to prepare females, minorities and low income individuals for construction apprenticeship programs. The training is being funded with some of the State's federal highway dollars. The RCAR Training was developed through a collaborative effort of faith and community based organizations, organized labor, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the Michigan Department of Transportation and Michigan Works. Individuals for the first class were recruited from a 9 county area and the demographics of those selected include females, minorities and ex-offenders. Their place of residency is also diverse. Upon successful completion of the 5 week training class, participants will have earned MIOSHA safety certification, First Aid/CPR/AED certification, a Work Keys certificate and the State of Michigan RCAR certificate.

Program Status Report – Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh reported the Program Status Report in the agenda packet includes program data through March 31, 2008. He asked if there were any questions, there were none.

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee – Dennis Berkebile reported the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee recently reviewed the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (MPRI). Lake Michigan College, the service provider for the initiative in Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties, and staff from the Kalamazoo Parole office provided information about the successes and challenges of operating MPRI. Progress is being made and results indicate that MPRI efforts are helping to increase employment of parolees returning to the community. Areas where improvement is needed were also identified.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – Mary Oudsema announced the next WDB Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 5, 2008 at the Upjohn Institute/Michigan Works office. The next full WDB meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 4, 2008 at the Michigan Works Service Center in Three Rivers. The next Monitoring and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at the Michigan Works Service Center in Three Rivers.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Robert A. Straits

Date

Mary Oudsema

Date

PROGRAM and RIBBON CUTTING

After a short break, over seventy-five individuals gathered for a program and ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Michigan Works Service Center. The event was emceed by Mary Oudsema, Chair of the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Workforce Development Board. Guest speakers included: Barbara Marshall, Superintendent, St. Joseph County Intermediate School District; Michael Hays, Plant Manager, American Metal Fab, Inc.; Ashley Shaffer, No Worker Left Behind training recipient; Don Edgerly, Onboarding Project Leader, Borgess Health; and Andy Levin, Deputy Director, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Following the program and ribbon cutting ceremony, guests were invited to tour the new Service Center and the Mobile One-Stop Unit (MOC-1) that was located in the parking lot. Mary Oudsema reported Michigan Works staff used the mobile unit to serve customers during the move to avoid interruption of services.