



A Private-Public Partnership Serving Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties
222 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4628

**Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2006**

WDB Chair, Jerry Love called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. at the Three Rivers Community Center, 103 South Douglas Avenue, Three Rivers, Michigan.

Members Present: Nasim Ansari (PS), Rick Anderson (Labor), Dennis Berkebile (PS), Susan Einspahr (PS), Lisa Godfrey (PS), Joe Herdus (PS), Jill Hess (PS), Chris Kadulski (DHS), Jerry Love (PS), Linda Marcon (PS), Marilyn Potgiesser (PS), Bernie Stankewicz (Educ), Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh (CBO) [Membership 24, Attendance-13 (54%), PS-9 (69%)]

Members Absent: Robin Baker (At-Large), John Boss (Labor), Thom Brennan (PS), Diana DeGraaf (PS), Diane Donovan (PS), Jim Harrington (PS), Erv Heidbrink (Labor), Margie Hojara-Hadsell (MRS), Ellen Kisinger-Rothi (CBO), Mary Oudsema (PS), Armando Romero (PS)

MW Staff Present: Ben Damerow, Jeanne Konrad, Kathy Olsen, Craig Schreuder, Kara Stewart, Bob Straits

Guests Present: Cathi Annis (SJCEDC), Karen Carlisle (Y.O.U.), Curt Mastos (HRDI), Tim McGann (LMC), Jack Mekemson (Goodwill), Leonidas Muremya (MDLEG), Dick Overton (DOL), Dolly Roselip (Y.O.U.), Tom Rueber (Y.O.U.), Terri Vought (Y.O.U.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Lisa Godfrey and supported by Susan Einspahr to approve the WDB meeting minutes of February 2, 2006. Motion carried.

Motion made by Lisa Godfrey and supported by Susan Einspahr to approve the WDB Executive Committee Meeting minutes of April 6, 2006. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Employment Services Plan – Craig Schreuder requested Board consideration and approval of the Wagner-Peyser Employment Services Plan for program year 2006 (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007) in the amount of \$460,799. The total reflects a 7% reduction in funding from the previous year's level as well as an estimated \$25,000 of unexpended PY2005 funds that will be carried into PY2006.

Motion made by Lisa Godfrey and supported by Dennis Berkebile to approve the Employment Services Plan for PY2006. Motion carried.

WDB Appointment

Motion made by Lisa Godfrey and supported by Marilyn Potgiesser to approve the appointment of Cathi Annis, representing economic development to the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Workforce Development Board for the remainder of a two-year term beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2007. Motion carried.

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee – Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh reported the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee met at Goodwill Industries to review the Work First Program and services for Kalamazoo County. Goodwill staff continues to be innovative with temporary employment opportunities and ways to improve retention. They recently implemented a Retail Training Program that includes classroom time and work experience. The program participants interviewed each had experienced a crisis that pulled them out of the workforce. Each sought financial assistance from the Department of Social Services and was then referred to the Work First Program. The participants interviewed stated they were grateful for the assistance that they were receiving from the Work First Program.

Marketing Committee – Kathy Olsen reported a Job Fair was held on April 25 at the Kalamazoo Michigan Works! Service Center. Twenty-eight employers with available jobs were in attendance. The type of jobs varied as did the skill levels. Over 600 job seekers attended the event. The Southwest Michigan Regional Healthcare Skill Alliance will be posting five billboards along the I-94 corridor from the west side of Berrien County to the east side of Calhoun County. The message will be to promote careers in Healthcare. Our subcontractor, Y.O.U./KRESA, is sponsoring a training on the topic of “Are you thinking like businesses think?” The training will be held at Western Michigan University on Friday, May 19, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Michigan Works! partner staff were invited to attend. The invitation was also extended to staff located in other Michigan Works! areas and to the members of the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Workforce Development Board.

PROGRAM

“Reality Check – Is This Job For You” – Kathy Olsen from the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Michigan Works Admin office introduced Tom Rueber and Terri Vought, KRESA Y.O.U. staff from the WIA Adult Program. Tom spoke about the history and the local collaboration that took place with a Caregiver Project to address the need to recruit and retain long-term care workers in the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Michigan Works area. He also discussed how the Project evolved and progressed through identifying local gaps and taking action. Terri expanded on the series of local workshops staff put together for individuals interested in CNA training. The workshops included learning about the reality of direct care work in the “Reality Check” workshop; exploring personalities, values, and goals in “Life Enhancement” to see the fit with direct care work; and what is done to celebrate accomplishments and think about the future in the “Next Steps” workshop.

Update on Local Labor Market Information for Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties – Bob Straits introduced Leonidas Murembya, from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. Leonidas’s presentation on the labor market for Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties included an analysis of the area’s population growth, changes in the employment and unemployment rates, industry job trends, and the forecast for the distribution of local jobs by industry.

STAFF REPORTS – Bob Straits reported the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act has not passed and programs have been operating for three years under a continuing resolution. There is a new initiative to develop a regional plan for coordination and collaboration between workforce development and economic development partners.

MEMBER’S TIME – None.

CITIZEN’S TIME – None.

NEXT MEETING - The next full WDB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2006 at a location to be announced. The next Monitoring and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2006 at the Three Rivers Michigan Works Service Center (this was later changed to June 15 at the Kalamazoo MW Service Center), and the next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2006 at 7:30 a.m. at the Michigan Works administration office.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Robert A. Straits

Date

Jerry Love

Date