



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

**Workforce Development Board Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2008**

WDB Chair, Mary Oudsema called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. at the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Executive Committee Members Present: Dennis Berkebile (PS), Susan Einspahr (PS) Joe Herdus (PS), Jerry Love (PS), Mary Oudsema (PS), Marilyn Potgiesser (PS)

Members Absent: Thom Brennan (PS), Lisa Godfrey (PS), Linda Marcon (PS)

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

Guests Present: Karen Anderson (MW Association), John Davis (DHS), John Dillworth (Goodwill), Luann Dunsford (MW Association), Janet Jones (GKUW), Malorie Kersten (MW Association), Curt Mastos (HRDI), Tim McGann (LMC), Dolly Roselip (Y.O.U./KRESA), Bridget Timmeney (Upjohn Institute)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Dennis Berkebile and supported by Joe Herdus to approve the WDB meeting minutes of May 2, 2008. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Workforce Development Plans – Kara Stewart requested Board consideration and approval of the PY2008 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult Program Plan, the PY2008 WIA Dislocated Worker Program Plan, the PY2008 WIA Youth Plan, and the PY2008 Employment Services Plan. She reported the amounts identified in the plan summaries include estimated carry-in dollars. Bob Straits reported site costs and rent will reduce the amount available for allocation to the service providers.

Motion made by Susan Einspahr and supported by Jerry Love to approve the WIA Adult Services Plan PY2008, the WIA Dislocated Worker Services Plan PY2008, the WIA Youth Services Plan PY2008, and the Employment Services Plan PY2008. Motion carried.

Program Status Report – Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh reported the program status report included activity through April 30, 2008. He stated the Dislocated Worker Program most likely will not meet the employment placement service goal by the end of the program year; however they will meet the employment placement rate. Factors that had an effect on the number placed include the low economy and the State's No Worker Left Behind Initiative that encourages enrollment of individuals into training. Section II of the report highlights the results of special initiatives. He reported the Department of Corrections intends to continue the Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Program. Suprotik also reported on projects that the Business Services Team has been working on with local economic developers and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The Business Services Team is exploring how to best align services to meet the needs of upcoming expansions that includes MPI research. Marilyn Potgiesser expressed a concern regarding the lack of local training opportunities for healthcare jobs that need to be filled. Suprotik announced the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee is sponsoring a panel discussion with representatives from area community colleges to discuss training opportunities. The discussion will be preceded by a presentation on Jobs for the Future. The event will be held on June 19 at 7:30 a.m. at the Upjohn Institute and all Board members were invited to attend.

Bob Straits reported that although staff encountered many delays while implementing the Road Construction Apprenticeship Readiness (RCAR) Training Program, including resistance from MDOT regarding the funding process, the staff working under Curt Mastos and Dolly Roselip did an outstanding job with the RCAR Initiative. The faith-based community assisted in recruiting participants for the training and 23 individuals were initially approved. The expectation in the RCAR training was that individuals would be able to move from a level 3 to a level 5 in Work Keys; in hindsight, this was unrealistic. Employment predictions indicated there would be jobs in the three pilot RCAR areas. Staff are currently working to place graduates into road construction employment; however, most of the construction hiring was done at the end of February or early March. The local economy and layoffs in the construction industry has also had an effect on placements.

Legislative Update – Bob Straits reported that at last month's meeting he spoke about a rescission of funding and that MDLEG would minimize the local effect. The current movement at the federal level is to rescind the rescission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee –

Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Inter-local Agreement – Bob Straits reported the Inter-local agreement establishes the relationship between Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties and identifies the Upjohn Institute as the administrative entity. The Agreement was recently approved by the St. Joseph and Kalamazoo County Boards of Commissioners. A summary of the agreement was included in the agenda packet.

Motion made by Marilyn Potgiesser and supported by Joe Herdus to approve the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Inter-local Agreement. Motion carried.

Presentation to the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners – Mary Oudsema reported Bob Straits and Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh gave a clear organized presentation of the Michigan Works system and the programs we operate to the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, June 3, 2008. Kathy Olsen, Jerry Love and she also attended the meeting. County commissioners expressed appreciation for the work that Michigan Works does. Bob Straits expressed staff appreciation for the presence and support of Board volunteers at these public meetings.

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee – Jeanne Konrad reported the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee met at the Three Rivers Michigan Works Service Center to review the JET Program and services being provided by Lake Michigan College. There were no significant issues. LMC has a smooth process in place to engage participants and to help them with tools to succeed in finding employment. The committee met with four participants who all provided good comments and indicated they were pleased with the supportive services available, especially daycare. One participant who received CNA training indicated her plans were to continue with a career in nursing. LMC staff discussed challenges they are encountering that included the lack of employment opportunities in the area, the fallout in the community from the American Axle strike, and the very costly local transportation system.

Marketing Committee – Kathy Olsen reported a graduation ceremony was held on May 16, 2008 to recognize the participants who completed the Southwest Michigan Road Construction Apprenticeship Readiness (RCAR) Training Program. A number of the participants spoke at the ceremony and each told their story as to how RCAR had changed their life. The event was well attended and included representatives from MDLEG and MDOT. She also reported that the event held on May 2, 2008 to celebrate the opening the new Michigan Works Service Center in St. Joseph County was very successful. It was well attended and the media coverage included multiple articles in the Kalamazoo Gazette, the Three Rivers Journal, and the Internet. Mary Oudsema reported the participant who spoke at the grand opening was another success story to be proud of.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Alternative Education in Kalamazoo County – Janet Jones from the Greater Kalamazoo United Way distributed information on Education Re-Connection, a dropout recovery research project. She reported the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, on behalf of the Kalamazoo County Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body (MPCB) applied for and received a \$100K grant for two years for this project from the Charles S. Mott Foundation. The Mott Foundation funded four projects in the State; however, ours is the only one that is focused primarily on recovery. The Mott Foundation also provided funding for Michigan Children to do work at the State level. The MPCB will monitor the local project's progress and the Greater Kalamazoo United Way will hold a contract for the coordination of the project. The lead agencies for the local project are Michigan Works and KRESA. The vision is that all youth will have the skills and education needed to be ready for work and to lead successful lives. The local research is county-wide and includes nine school districts. The handouts distributed included a summary of the alternative education and adult education structure. Janet reported that although this project is focused on research and planning, staff will seek additional funding and hope to implement some things in February.

Michigan Works Association – Luann Dunsford, CEO of the Michigan Works Association, reported the Association is comprised of membership from 25 Michigan Works areas. Services provided by the Association include: professional development for the system so that staff will have the tools to run successful programs; technical support to user groups

to refine and improve the system; and public education and outreach to legislative representatives and other partners throughout the State. Luann reported that she and her staff are meeting with local staff to determine needs so that they can better serve their customers. Malorie Kersten distributed information packets that included a staff directory, a return on investment brochure and information about the annual Michigan Works Conference. Bob Straits stated that the bar for LuAnn and her staff is high. Each State has two representatives on the Great Lakes Employment and Training Association (GLETA) and all the other states look to Michigan as a model. Luann has been with the MW Association for nine years and has had a part in developing this image. Luann further reported that the Association is the largest workforce development association in the country and is at the forefront of change.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

MEMBER’S TIME – Bob Straits announced that unemployment checks are now electronic. Two options are available: debit card or direct deposit into a bank or credit union account.

CITIZEN’S TIME – Dennis Berkebile reported a 4-10% reduction in transportation funding is expected. Part of the Jobs Today funding is to advance road projects forward and many of these projects were let and in process before RCAR.

NEXT MEETING – The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2008 at the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, Michigan. The next Monitoring and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2008 from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. at the Upjohn Institute in Kalamazoo.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Robert A. Straits

Date

Mary Oudsema

Date