



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
July 12, 2007**

WDB Chair, Jerry Love called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m. at the Michigan Works/Upjohn Institute, 222 South Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Executive Committee Members Present: Dennis Berkebile (PS), Thom Brennan (PS), Lisa Godfrey (PS), Jerry Love (PS), Mary Oudsema (PS)

Executive Committee Members Absent: Susan Einspahr (PS), Joe Herdus (PS), Linda Marcon (PS), Marilyn Potgiesser (PS)

MW Staff Present: Kathy Olsen, Kara Stewart, Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh, Bob Straits,

Guests Present: Karen Carlisle (Y.O.U.), John Davis (DHS), John Dillworth (Goodwill), Curt Mastos (HRDI), Tim McGann (LMC), Jack Mekemson (Goodwill), Cincy Sullivan (Y.O.U.),

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Lisa Godfrey and supported by Dennis Berkebile to approve the Workforce Development Board Executive Committee meeting minutes of June 7, 2007. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Plans

Employment Services Plan for Program Year 2007 - Kara Stewart reported there is a slight change in the funding level for the 2007 Employment Services Plan. The summary distributed with the agenda described the workforce development services for job seekers and employers that will be provided under this plan.

Capacity Building and Professional Development Plan for Program Year 2007 – Kara Stewart reported the funding for program year 2007 Capacity Building and Professional Development is used to provide training for workforce development professionals in the Michigan Works system.

Motion made by Mary Oudsema and supported by Lisa Godfrey to approve the Employment Services Plan for Program Year 2007 and the Capacity Building and Professional Development Plan for Program Year 2007. Motion carried.

Workforce Development Board Appointment – Bob Straits reported Margaret “Peggy” Gagen was hired as Community Investment Associate at the Greater Kalamazoo United Way and Margaret is being recommended to replace Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh on the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Workforce Development Board as a representative for community based organizations. He requested Board consideration and approval for the appointment.

Motion made by Thom Brennan and supported by Dennis Berkebile to appoint Margaret Gagen, representing community based organizations, to the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Workforce Development Board for the remainder of a two-year term beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2008.

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee – Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh reported that during the past two program years, the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee began and ended their meeting cycle by holding a joint meeting with all the service providers. At the June meeting, the Committee met with the service providers to review what has been accomplished during

the past two years and to celebrate successes. Suprotik reported the Committee focus has evolved from Monitoring and Compliance to Monitoring and Evaluation, and more recently has focused on continuous improvement. Suprotik presented a proposal to continue evolving and to transition the committee further into inspiring continuous improvement and innovation. In the coming year, the Committee would like for each subcontractor to focus on a specific issue of their choosing. The Committee would continue to spend time meeting with each service provider; however the meeting would have an increased focus on the successes and challenges that each service provider is facing with their chosen issue. The Committee would like to begin the 2007-08 program year in September with a best practices and innovation training for service providers and committee members. Suprotik reported that members also discussed changing the name of the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee to the “Innovation Committee.” One of the Executive Committee members suggested another possible name change for the committee would be the “Monitoring and Development Committee.” Executive Committee members supported the new focus for the Monitoring Committee. However, Lisa Godfrey reminded members that if the Committee name and responsibilities are changing, the Bylaws would need to be revised.

Motion made by Lisa Godfrey and supported by Dennis Berkebile to proceed with the focus on innovation and continuous improvement for the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee.

Marketing Committee – No report.

STAFF REPORTS - Bob Straits reported the most recent initiative being promoted out of Lansing is called *No Worker Left Behind (NWLB)*. The focus of NWLB will be to serve the unemployed, laid off workers, and those who will be laid off. Michigan Works staff will focus on coordinating skill assessments and training in areas of occupational demand with community colleges. NWLB has a greater emphasis and promotion on training as part of the answer for those looking for employment. Currently there is no additional funding; however the Governor’s plan is to move some funding previously designated for smaller projects into the NWLB initiative. For the current *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)* programs there is little change other than the State’s marketing of the NWLB initiative and the State’s eligibility criteria would replace local definitions. The State’s definition for low income uses an income level that is a bit higher than what is currently used in the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph MW area. Current WIA funding will be used prior to using any new funds. Operationally, there is a longer risk taken when a participant is placed in training and this may affect common measure performance. For the Workforce Investment Act programs that ended June 30, 2007, the preliminary performance numbers look good for most areas. Youth outcomes generally show a greater increase during the months of May and June. Enrollments in the Dislocated Worker Program are lower than what is preferred. The State’s goal for the *Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (MPRI)* is to reduce recidivism below 48%; however, the time period used to calculate this rate is uncertain. Since the commencement of the MPRI program in Kalamazoo County, the local recidivism rate is 16%. It is too early to determine whether or not MPRI is a cost savings for the State. Members discussed challenges of operating the MPRI program that included providing effective mentoring, understanding differences in providing services to both genders, the complications of managing sex offenders, and helping parole officers to understand all of the support needs.

MEMBER’S TIME – None.

CITIZEN’S TIME – None

NEXT MEETING – The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 2007 at 7:30 a.m. at the Upjohn Institute/Michigan Works office in Kalamazoo. The next full Workforce Development Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 2007. Members discussed holding the September meeting at a St. Joseph County location and including a brief workforce development/Michigan Works orientation as part of the agenda. A suggestion was also made to invite members of the St. Joseph County Human Services Commission and the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 a.m.

Robert A. Straits

Date

Jerry Love

Date