



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

Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes September 13, 2007

WDB Chair, Jerry Love called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. at Three Rivers Health, 701 South Health Parkway, Three Rivers, Michigan.

Members Present: David Allen (PS), Cathi Annis (Econ Dev), Rick Anderson (Labor), Robin Baker (At-Large), Dennis Berkebile (PS), Thom Brennan (PS), Diane Donovan (PS), Don Edgerly (PS), Margaret Gagen (CBO), Jim Harrington (Educ), Erv Heidbrink (Labor) Margie Hojara-Hadsell (MRS), Chris Kadulski (DHS), Jerry Love (PS), Mary Oudsema (PS), Marilyn Potgiesser (PS), Casey Putnam (Educ), Steward Sandstrom (PS), Barry Visel (PS)

Members Absent: Nasim Ansari (PS), Susan Einspahr (PS), Bill Farmer (Labor), Lisa Godfrey (PS), Joe Herdus (PS), Jill Hess (PS), Ellen Kisinger-Rothi (CBO), Linda Marcon (PS), Shelby Meyer (PS), Armando Romero (PS),

MW Staff Present: Kathy Olsen, Craig Schreuder, Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh, Bob Straits

Guests Present: Monte Bordner (SJC Board), Karen Carlisle (Y.O.U./KRESA), John Davis (DHS), John Dillworth (Goodwill), John Dobberteen (SJC Board), Liz Dotson (Job Corp), Bob Harrison (LMC), Barbara Marshall (St. Joseph ISD), Tim McGann (LMC), Ron Pribble (GOCC), Dolly Roselip (Y.O.U./KRESA), Kari Scare (GOCC), State Rep Rick Shaffer (59th District), Patty Vanaman (MDLEG-NWLB)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – State Representative Rick Shaffer provided members with an update of the State’s budget crisis. He reported as of the previous night, an agreement has not been reached as to how to cover the State’s budget deficit. One topic that has been under a long debate is whether or not to raise the personal income tax. Another area being discussed is whether or not to raise the Michigan sales tax. Rep. Shaffer encouraged everyone to stay in contact with their legislative representatives.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ORIENTATION – Workforce Development Board Reference Manuals were distributed to everyone in attendance. Bob Straits provided members with an overview of the workforce development system. He explained the flow of funding and local organization and management of the workforce development programs. Craig Schreuder provided attendees with an overview of the Workforce Development Board standing and advisory committees and the responsibilities of each.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Marilyn Potgiesser and supported by Thom Brennan to approve the WDB meeting minutes of May 3, 2007. Motion carried.

Motion made by Thom Brennan and supported by Dennis Berkebile to approve the WDB Executive Committee meeting minutes of August 2, 2007.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Program Plans – Craig Schreuder requested Board consideration and approval of the three program plans for program year 2007. He reported the amount allocated to the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Michigan Works Area for the **Incumbent Worker Training Grant PY07** was \$165,036. Resources from this grant will be focused on strengthening incumbent worker skills in several priority areas that includes Health Care, Manufacturing, and high growth and emerging industries.

Motion made by Margie Hojara-Hadsell and supported by David Allen to approve the plan for the Incumbent Worker Training Grant PY07 in the amount of \$165,036. Motion carried.

Craig Schreuder reported total funding; including carry-in, for the **Disability Program Navigator Initiative for PY07** is \$18,329. These funds will be used for the professional development and capacity building of Michigan Works Area professionals including, but not limited to, the Workforce Development board, Michigan Works Agency, One Stop Center staff, and other Michigan Works partner agency staff.

Motion made by Mary Oudsema and supported by Margie Hojara-Hadsell to approve the plan for the Disability Program Navigator Initiative for PY07 in the amount of \$18,329. Motion carried.

Craig Schreuder reported an amount of \$64,802 was allocated to the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph MWA to supplement current resources for training under the Governor's **No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) Training** initiative. This amount includes carry-in dollars and these funds will be used for individuals eligible under the WIA Dislocated Worker Program.

Motion made by Dennis Berkebile and supported by Thom Brennan to approve the plan for the No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) Training initiative in the amount of \$64,802. Motion carried.

Workforce Development Board – Bob Straits requested Board consideration and approval for the reappointment of Board members whose terms expire on December 31, 2007. He also requested Board consideration and approval of the appointment of Casey Putnam, representing education; Kimberly Luther, representing the Michigan Department of Corrections; and Deputy Warden Will Riley as an alternate for Kimberly Luther, to the Workforce Development Board.

Motion made by Marilyn Potgiesser and supported by Thom Brennan to reappointment David Allen, Cathi Annis, Stacie Dineen (alternate for Bill Farmer), Diane Donovan, Susan Einspahr, William Farmer, Lisa Godfrey, Joseph Herdus, Jerry Love, Ellen Kisinger-Rothi, Shelby Meyer, Mary Oudsema and Barry Visel to the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Workforce Development Board for another two-year term beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2009.

Motion made by Marilyn Potgiesser and supported by Thom Brennan to appoint Casey Putnam, replacing Bernie Stankewicz and representing education, to the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Workforce Development Board for the remainder of a two-year term beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2007 and for another two-year term from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009.

Motion made by Marilyn Potgiesser and supported by Thom Brennan to appoint Kimberly Luther, representing the Department of Corrections and Deputy Warden Will Riley as an alternate for Ms. Luther, 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 – Dennis Berkebile reported the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee did not meet during the summer months. Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh reported the committee will begin the 2007-08 program year with a guest speaker from Cascade Engineering. Mr. Dave Barrett, Director of Talent Management will talk about some of the innovative practices used at Cascade. The goal is for attendees to gain a better understanding of the tools that can be used to foster improved problem-solving and implement continuous improvement strategies. The meeting will be held next Thursday, September 20 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the W. E. Upjohn Institute. All members and partners were invited to attend the meeting.

Marketing Committee – Kathy Olsen reported there has been a statewide effort to promote the Governor's No Worker Left Behind Initiative. Locally, partners are working with training providers to implement more training programs for in-demand occupations. Bob Straits reported the Governor held a media event at KVCC M-TEC in August to promote the No Worker Left Behind Initiative. Bob Straits reported Wilma Wilder was presented a customer service award at the Michigan Works annual conference earlier this month for her work with the Reality Check Borgess Project. Staff from the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph MWA gave presentations at three conference workshops.

STAFF REPORTS

No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) – Guest speaker, Patty Vanaman from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) gave an update on the Governor's No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) Initiative. She reported the Governor first announced the NWLB initiative in her State of the State address in January. Andy Levin, the Deputy

Director for the MDLEG has been charged with the responsibility of this initiative. A workgroup made up of representatives from community colleges, the private sector, Michigan Works areas and MDLEG agreed upon NWLB guidelines at the end of May and an action team was developed in early June to begin implementation. Patty reported the vision of the NWLB initiative is to train 100,000 individuals over the next three years. She highlighted program eligibility and the features of the NWLB initiative and stressed that individuals who qualify for this training must pursue a degree or occupational certificate in a high-demand occupation or emerging industry or in an entrepreneurship program. She explained the high demand occupations vary from region to region throughout the State. The training programs used must also be approved on Michigan's Career Education Consumer Report (CECR). The amount allowed per year for training is capped at \$5,000 and most training programs fall under this limit. In order to strengthen the NWLB initiative throughout Michigan, advisory groups are being formed to work on policy and implementation improvements. Initial funding for the NWLB initiative comes from existing allocations that can be used for training; however additional dollars will be needed. Eligible participants are required to also apply for financial aid which will help to offset some of the cost.

Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (MPRI) – Bob Straits reported Kalamazoo County has been a pilot site for the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (MPRI) and St. Joseph County will be added October 1, 2007. He noted that all programs that are without funding allocations are in jeopardy of shutting down October 1 if a State budget is not passed. At this time, Lake Michigan College and the Upjohn Institute have committed to continuing operations for a short time period.

Other Workforce Development Programs – Bob Straits reported discussion continues at the federal level regarding a potential reduction in funding for the Workforce Investment Act programs. He also reported a \$700,000 reduction in funding for Work First for the program year that begins October 1. He reported Work First will become the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Program on October 1. JET is designed to have more up-front assessment of participants. Staff from the Department of Human Services (DHS), Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) and Michigan Works will be working together to identify and address the needs of participants.

Bob Straits reported Don Edgerly, Wilma Wilder and he gave a presentation on the Model Program Borgess Project at the annual Michigan Works Conference earlier this month. He stated the ultimate goal of the Model is that the service provided is of value to employers and that employers will be willing to pay for these services. He reported a grant from the Kalamazoo Foundation was used to implement the Model at Borgess on January 1. Don Edgerly stated the goals for Borgess has been to increase retention of employees. A variety of entry level jobs in a number of departments at Borgess were targeted for this initiative and Michigan Works has been extremely helpful with the hiring process by providing a Reality Check for potential employees and support to the employees during their initial month of employment. As concerns surface, they are being addressed and there has been a significant improvement in turnover. Don reported as of July 1, Borgess has been paying for this service. At the end of the first year, he will be comparing the new hire turnover within each department. Bob reported staff are currently working to expand the model with Bronson Healthcare.

MEMBER'S TIME – In responding to an inquiry from one of the Board members, Dolly Roselip reported the number of computers available at the Michigan Works Service Center was not reduced; however, there have been times when some computers may have been undergoing technology upgrades and may not have been available. In response to an inquiry regarding Work Keys, Dolly reported the Service Centers in Kalamazoo and Three Rivers, as well as the Y.O.U. office on South Street will have the curriculum available to study for Work Keys.

NEXT MEETING – The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 2007 at 7:30 a.m. at the Upjohn Institute/Michigan Works office in Kalamazoo. The next combined Executive Committee and full WDB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 1, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The next Monitoring and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 20, 2007 at the Upjohn Institute.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Robert A. Straits

Date

Jerry Love

Date