



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

**Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2006**

WDB Chair, Jerry Love called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. at the W. E. Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Members Present: Cathy Annis (Econ Dev), Nasim Ansari (PS), Rick Anderson (Labor), Robin Baker (At-Large), Susan Einspahr (PS), Lisa Godfrey (PS), Joe Herdus (PS), Jim Harrington (PS), Jill Hess (PS), Margie Hojara-Hadsell (MRS), Jerry Love (PS), Linda Marcon (PS), Mary Oudsema (PS), Marilyn Potgiesser (PS), Armando Romero (PS), Bernie Stankewicz (Educ), Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh (CBO) [Membership 26, Attendance-17 (65%), PS-11(65%)]

Members Absent: Dennis Berkebile (PS), John Boss (Labor), Thom Brennan (PS), Diana DeGraaf (PS), Diane Donovan (PS), Erv Heidbrink (Labor), Chris Kadulski (DHS), Ellen Kisinger-Rothi (CBO), Barry Visel (PS)

MW Staff Present: Kathy Olsen, Craig Schreuder, Jan Smith, Bridget Timmeney

Guests Present: John Davis (DHS), John Dillworth (Goodwill), Ron Kitchens (Southwest MI First), Rev. Linda MacDonald (North Presbyterian/ISAAC), Curt Mastos (HRDI), Tim McGann (LMC), Jack Mekemson (Goodwill), Karika Phillips (Y.O.U.), Dolly Roselip (Y.O.U.), Steward Sandstrom (Kalamazoo Area Chamber of Commerce)

PROGRAM – Mr. Ron Kitchens, Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Michigan First presented an overview of the economic development initiatives in the area. Topics covered in his presentation included a Venture Fund for Life Sciences, Angel Network funding for entrepreneurs, business sectors experiencing growth in the region and state, and the Innovation Center located on the WMU campus. He also spoke about efforts to recruit new businesses and creating an environment in Michigan that is business friendly. He spoke about the importance of recruitment and training for future employees in order to replace the retiring, aging workforce and to meet the demand for an increased employee base that is needed for healthcare and advanced manufacturing. He also stressed that the business infrastructure and the workforce needs to be technologically competent. Mr. Kitchens stated an Angel Network training is scheduled for October 30 and is open to anyone who has a commitment and who will mentor entrepreneurs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Marilyn Potgiesser and supported by Bernie Stankewicz to approve the WDB meeting minutes of May 4, 2006. Motion carried.

Motion made by Marilyn Potgiesser and supported by Bernie Stankewicz to approve the WDB Executive Committee Meeting minutes of August 18 2006. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Plans – Craig Schreuder requested Board consideration and approval of program plans for additional funding received for Trade Adjustment Act, Capacity Building and Professional Development, the Disability Program Navigator Initiative, WIA Adult and WIA Youth PY2006 Programs.

Motion made by Lisa Godfrey and supported by Margie Hojara-Hadsell to approve the Plans for Additional Funds for Trade Adjustment Act, Capacity Building and Professional Development, the Disability Program Navigator Initiative, WIA Adult and WIA Youth PY2006 Programs. Motion carried.

Program Guideline Statement 2005-05 Rev01 “Supportive Services” – Craig Schreuder requested Board approval of a revision to the local supportive services guideline statement. He explained the revision was to add text that was inadvertently omitted from the 2005 guideline statement when drafted for WDB review. The text existed in the prior guideline statements.

Motion made by Bernie Stankewicz and supported by Joe Herdus to approve the Program Guideline Statement 2005-05 Rev01 “Supportive Services.” Motion carried.

WDB Re-Appointments

Motion made by Mary Oudsema and supported by Linda Marcon to approve re-appointments of Thom Brennan, Dennis Berkebile, Jill Hess, Myra Johnson (alternate for Hess), Linda Marcon, Marilyn Potgiesser and Armando Romero, representing the private sector; Richard Anderson and Erv Heidbrink, representing labor; James Harrington, representing education; Margie Hojara Hadsell representing rehabilitation services; Chris Kadulski representing public assistance; Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh representing community based organizations; and Robin Baker, at-large representative to the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Workforce Development Board for two-year terms beginning January 1, 2007 ending December 31, 2008. Motion carried.

WDB 2007 Meeting Schedule –Kathy Olsen requested Board approval of the draft 2007 WDB meeting schedule. She noted that the July and September Executive and full Board meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday due to the first Thursday’s close proximity to the July and September holidays.

Motion made by Margie Hojara-Hadsell and supported by Linda Marcon to approve the WDB meeting schedule for the 2007 calendar year. Motion carried.

Regional Strategies for 21st Century Workforce Development – Jan Smith reported the State of Michigan provided funding to support activities leading towards the development of coordinated regional strategies for creating the 21st Century Workforce. The Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Michigan Works area is partnering with the Barry-Branch-Calhoun Michigan Works Area for this initiative. Workforce development, economic development and education representatives from the five county area are working together to develop a regional plan. Six major themes surfaced from the Summit held on September 14 and a design team is meeting to identify items to address without additional funding, items to address with additional funding, and a wish list of needed changes that the State will be asked to address. Business services representatives from workforce development, economic development and education are invited to a full day meeting at the Upjohn Institute on October 17 to learn about a business services model called BEST being used in another area of the State. Representatives from the State are scheduled to be in Kalamazoo on November 8 to provide technical assistance for the development of the regional plan for the five-county area. The meeting will be held at the Upjohn Institute and WDB members were invited to attend.

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee – Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh reported the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee met with representatives from all the service providers. The discussion centered on four areas that the service providers should focus on during the program year. The service providers were encouraged to submit proposals for change to address barriers encountered and a simple form to identify the barrier, a proposed change and the desired outcome was introduced. Meetings with individual service providers will begin in October.

Marketing Committee – No report.

STAFF REPORTS – Craig Schreuder reported the first page of the staff report is for programs that started in July and the second page is for programs ending September 30.

MEMBER’S TIME –Jerry Love stated he appreciated hearing from Ron Kitchens about the area’s economic development possibilities and challenges. Bernie Stankewicz expressed that Mr. Kitchens provided outstanding information and that it is important that this information goes out to school counselors, parents and students.

CITIZEN’S TIME – John Davis announced the annual ISAAC public meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on October 19, 2006. The meeting will be held at Galilee Baptist Church on North Westnedge. Agenda topics to be discussed include: transportation, families, housing, and the MCRI (Michigan Civil Rights Initiative). Linda MacDonald encouraged those in attendance to vote for the transportation millage and distributed brochures supporting county-wide

transit.

NEXT MEETING - The next combined Executive Committee and full WDB meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2006. The next Monitoring and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 19, 2006 at the Kalamazoo Michigan Works Service Center.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Craig Schreuder

Date

Jerry Love

Date