



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

**Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2007**

WDB Chair, Jerry Love called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. at W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 222 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Members Present: Rick Anderson (Labor), Robin Baker (At-Large), Dennis Berkebile (PS), Thom Brennan (PS), Diane Donovan (PS), Don Edgerly (PS), Susan Einspahr (PS), Margaret Gagen (CBO), Lisa Godfrey (PS), Joe Herdus (PS), Margie Hojara-Hadsell (MRS), Chris Kadulski (DHS), Ellen Kisinger-Rothi (CBO), Jerry Love (PS), Mary Oudsema (PS), Marilyn Potgiesser (PS), Armando Romero (PS), Barry Visel (PS)

Members Absent: David Allen (PS), Cathi Annis (Econ Dev), Nasim Ansari (PS), Bill Farmer (Labor), Jim Harrington (Educ), Erv Heidbrink (Labor), Kim Luther (DOC), Linda Marcon (PS), Shelby Meyer (PS), Casey Putnam (Educ), Steward Sandstrom (PS)

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

Guests Present: John Davis (DHS), John Dillworth (Goodwill), Curt Mastos (HRDI), Tim McGann (LMC), Jack Mekemson (Goodwill), Deb Miller (K/RESA), Dolly Roselip (Y.O.U./KRESA), Bridget Timmeney (WEUI), Brad Watts (WEUI)

PROGRAM – Brad Watts, Assistant Regional Analyst for the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research gave a presentation on the Economic Scan Results for Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties. The economic scan included an overview of regional economic and demographic conditions, an assessment of workforce needs, a long-term employment forecast, developed comparative economic impact examples, and a review of regional approaches. A summary of the scan findings indicated that regional conditions are similar to state averages, but individual counties vary greatly; the long-term forecast is for modest growth; area employers are most concerned with basic workforce issues; and manufacturing continues to have the greatest impact on the region. Attendees were invited to attend a regional meeting to further discuss the Economic Scan results and the next steps for Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Marilyn Potgiesser and supported by Dennis Berkebile to approve the WDB meeting minutes of September 13, 2007. Motion carried.

Motion made by Thom Brennan and supported by Susan Einspahr to approve the WDB Executive Committee meeting minutes of October 4, 2007. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Workforce Development Plans - Kara Stewart requested Board consideration and approval of two program plans. She reported the plan for the **FY08 Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Program** included a funding estimate based on the FY07 allocation amount of \$2,500,000. Resources from this grant will be used to serve approximately 3,700 individuals referred to the program from the Department of Human Resources. The JET Program runs from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. Kara also reported the **Trade Adjustment Assistance Program** received funding in the amount of \$55,316 that includes new and carry-in funds.

Motion made by Margie Hojara-Hadsell and supported by Thom Brennan to approve the plan for the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Program Plan for FY08 in the amount of \$2,500,000 and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program Plan in the amount of \$55,316. Motion carried.

Workforce Development Program Policies – None.

Schedule for 2008 – Kathy Olsen requested Board approval of the 2008 meeting schedule for the Workforce Development Board and Committees.

Motion made by Diane Donovan and supported by Thom Brennan to approve the 2008 Workforce Development Board schedule as submitted. Motion carried.

Program Status Report – Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh reported he is evaluating outcome reports and will be working with service providers to create a new report with timely and accurate data. Members indicated the number of program enrollments, the number of those enrolled in training, the types of training they are enrolled in, and the number of participants dually enrolled, are of interest to them. The request for proposal for the Incumbent Worker Training Grants will be released in the immediate future. These funds are available to assist local businesses with their training needs. Staff from the Business Services Team will be available to assist businesses with the application process.

Legislative Update – Bob Straits reported *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)* funding for the State of Michigan was increased due to the State's high unemployment and number of low income families; however, there is discussion at the federal level regarding a rescission of some of the funding. Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act is also being debated at the federal level and it is expected that the program design will be similar, perhaps with a more regional approach. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding for the *Jobs Education and Training Program (JET) Program* (formerly Work First) will be at a lower level than last year. The State budget was approved yesterday and funding for WIA and TANF should be released in the near future. The *Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Program (MPRI)* was expanded to include St. Joseph County; however, the funding is at approximately the same level as last year. The Department of Corrections was affected by the State budget and is closing facilities; as a result the MPRI Program may grow. The *Securing Children's Opportunities, Possibilities & Empowerment (SCOPE) Program* is a pilot program designed to work with families and the children of incarcerated parents. This program is supported by funding from the Kalamazoo Foundation and a matching grant from the New York JEHT Foundation was received to support this effort. The *Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management (CASOM)* is funded by the federal Department of Justice and CASOM is the State's program to plan and implement a system-wide plan for the management of sex offenders. The first CASOM training for staff and members of the community was held earlier this week. Staff from the Department of Corrections, including the Director, attended the training. Community meetings and discussions are taking place regarding possible funding that will be targeted for *training in building trades associated with road construction*. Plans are to implement a short-term training curriculum to prepare individuals for apprenticeship programs in the building trades. If funded, this training will most likely fall under the Governor's No Worker Left Behind Initiative.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – None.

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee – Jeanne Konrad reported the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee reviewed the One Stop Service Centers, Employment Services and the Trade Adjustment Act Program during the month of October. Youth Opportunities Unlimited /KRESA is the service provider and Jeanne reported they are meeting or exceeding the needs of the individuals served at the service centers as well as the contractual requirements. Changes are expected in the near future for the TAA Program and training is being planned for the staff involved. The Committee also had conversation with all of the service providers regarding identifying issues that could be addressed using a continuous improvement process model. Service providers were asked to identify three issues for each program.

Marketing Committee – Kathy Olsen reported nominations were received from local service providers for the Michigan Works Association's annual Alumni Awards to be held in 2008. The nominations were reviewed and, pending approval from the local parole office, the committee was recommending that the nomination from the MPRI Program be forwarded to the State Association to represent the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Michigan Works Area. Although approval is expected from the parole office, the committee selected an alternate nomination that could be used if needed. Kathy requested Board approval to move forward with the nomination process.

Motion made by Mary Oudsema and supported by Lisa Godfrey to approve 2008 Alumni nomination as recommended. Motion carried.

