



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

**Workforce Development Board and
Workforce Development Board Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2006**

WDB Chair, Jerry Love called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. at the W. E. Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Executive Committee

Members Present: Lisa Godfrey (PS), Joe Herdus (PS), Jerry Love (PS), Mary Oudsema (PS), Marilyn Potgiesser (PS)

Other Members Present: Robin Baker (At-Large), Dennis Berkebile (PS), Margie Hojara-Hadsell (MRS), Chris Kadulski (DHS), Ellen Kisinger-Rothi (CBO), Bernie Stankewicz (Educ), Barry Visel (PS)

Members Absent: Cathy Annis (Econ Dev), Nasim Ansari (PS), Rick Anderson (Labor), John Boss (Labor), Thom Brennan (PS), Diane Donovan (PS), Susan Einspahr (PS), Jim Harrington (PS), Erv Heidbrink (Labor), Jill Hess (PS), Linda Marcon (PS), Armando Romero (PS), Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh (CBO)

MW Staff Present: Jeanne Konrad, Kathy Olsen, Craig Schreuder, Jan Smith, Bob Straits

Guests Present: John Davis (DHS), William Farmer (AFSCME), Roberta Griffith (Y.O.U.), Curt Mastos (HRDI), Tim McGann (LMC), Krista McKay (Borgess Navigation Center), Jack Mekemson (Goodwill), Karika Phillips (Y.O.U.), Chris Rosborough (MDLEG), Dolly Roselip (Y.O.U.), Fran Sibley (HRDI)

PROGRAM – Ms. Krista McKay from the Borgess Navigation Center gave a summary of the 21st Century Summit meeting held at the Borgess Navigation Center on September 14, 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate and develop workforce development, economic development and education regional strategies for the 21st century workforce. A sponsor team representing the three sectors met prior to September 14 to plan the agenda. Fifty-five individuals representing all three sectors from a five county region that included Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph counties attended the event. The Summit concluded with four key messages: they were: (1) Programs and services should be of value to the customers served. (2) There are quality programs and services available; however they need to be more flexible. (3) Enhanced communication between programs and providers and with customers is needed. (4) Expand collaboration across agencies and regions. A second meeting was held with members of an expanded sponsor team to review all the documentation and convert the information to meaningful recommendations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Joe Herdus and supported by Marilyn Potgiesser to approve the WDB meeting minutes of October 5, 2006. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Plans – Craig Schreuder requested Board consideration and approval of program plans for the Work First (WF) and Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) Programs. Work First funds in the amount of \$3,089,454 from a variety of funding sources were received to enhance the employability of public assistance recipients and enable them to become more competitive in the labor market. Individuals eligible for participation are referred to Work First by the Department of Human Services. Service priority will be Family Independence Program (FIP) recipients and Non-Custodial Parents (NCP). An additional \$110,872 was received for the FAE&T Program to assist individuals, 18-50 years old and without dependents, to maintain their food assistance eligibility by participating in a work program or training activity. The long-term goal is to assist the individuals in obtaining unsubsidized employment.

Motion made by Joe Herdus and supported by Margie Hojara-Hadsell to approve the Work First and Food Assistance Employment and Training Program Plans for FY2006. Motion carried.

WDB Appointments

Motion made by Robin Baker and supported by Marilyn Potgiesser to approve the appointments of David Allen and Shelby Meyer, both representing the private sector, to the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Workforce Development Board for the remainder of two-year terms beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2007. Motion carried.

Alumni Award Nomination –Kathy Olsen requested Board approval of the nomination of Stefain Holmes as the 2007 Alumni Award Nomination representing Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties.

Motion made by Marilyn Potgiesser and supported by Mary Oudsema to approve the nomination of Stefain Holmes as the 2007 Alumni Award Nomination representing Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties. Motion carried.

21st Century Workforce Development Regional Strategies Meeting – Bob Straits announced representatives from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth are scheduled to be in Kalamazoo on November 8 to provide technical assistance for the development of the regional 21st Century Workforce Development Plan for the five-county area. Individuals who attended the September 14 event were encouraged to attend the meeting at the Upjohn Institute on November 8 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee – Jeanne Konrad reported the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee met with staff and participants in the Dislocated Worker Program. She reported the staff providing services to the dislocated workers were passionate and committed to helping program participants. The three participants interviewed all expressed their satisfaction with the services received and they felt supported by staff. Although a committee meeting was not originally scheduled for the month of November, members present at the October meeting elected to hold a special subcommittee meeting for those who are available to attend. The purpose of the meeting will be to address barriers encountered by individuals who complete CNA training and who are waiting to take the CNA certification exam. The committee will discuss ways to streamline the process, keep individuals engaged and increase their confidence. The meeting will be held on November 16 at 8:00 a.m. at Heritage Community in Kalamazoo.

Marketing Committee – Kathy Olsen reported the annual Alumni Award event will be held in Lansing either late January or early February.

STAFF REPORTS – Bob Straits reported the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce is planning another **Job Summit**. Tentative plans are to hold the event on February 8 and 9, 2007. The Chamber has asked Michigan Works, Southwest Michigan First and KVCC M-TEC to partner with them for this year's event. This is an opportunity to showcase local workforce development initiatives such as the Model Program or Healthcare Apprenticeships.

Bob also updated members on the **Model Program**, a business model approach developed for local employers that is not dependent on federal and/or state funding. Three local employers signed on to be champion employers for the initiative and the initial stages of implementing the project with Borgess Hospital has begun. Staff will focus on assessment, prescreening and a reality check to identify individuals for a number of occupational areas at Borgess.

Craig Schreuder reported staff have been exploring **best practices for employer services**. On October 17 staff from the South Central Michigan Works area gave a presentation on the BEST model. In the near future staff will explore the business services model used in the Barry/Branch/Calhoun area. Later in November, a MW administrative team will meet with staff from the South Central Michigan Works area to further explore the operational structure used by South Central Michigan Works.

The governance for the **Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative (MPRI)** is changing to statewide governance; in the past it differed among local areas. The new governance is modeled after the structure currently used in Kalamazoo whereby the Workforce Development Board approves the MPRI plan and the Michigan Works Areas is the fiduciary. After January 1, MPRI will be expanded to St. Joseph County as part of the tier 3 expansion and staff are working with a committee in St. Joseph County to provide guidance.

MEMBER'S TIME –None.

CITIZEN'S TIME – None

NEXT MEETING - The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2006. The next full WDB meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 1, 2006. The next Monitoring and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2006 at Heritage Community in Kalamazoo.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Robert A. Straits

Date

Jerry Love

Date