

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2003

WDB Chair, Marilyn Potgiesser called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Arcadia Commons Campus, 202 North Rose Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

WDB Members Present: Thom Brennan (PS), Diane Donovan (PS), Susan Einspahr (PS), Lisa Godfrey (PS), James Harrington (PS), Joe Herdus (PS), Margie Hojara-Hadsell (MRS), Ellen Kisinger-Rothi (CBO), Jerry Love (PS), Marilyn Potgiesser (PS), Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh (CBO). Membership – 27, Attendance 11 (41%), PS (72%)

MWA Staff Present: Kathy Olsen, Kara Stewart, Bob Straits, Jim Walters, Linda Whitlock

Guests Present: Galyn Barnum (Goodwill Industries), John Davis (FIA), Helen Welsh (ETC)

- I. **Meeting Minutes** **Motion made by Joe Herdus and supported by Jerry Love to approve the WDB meeting minutes of May 1, 2003 and the WDB Executive Committee meeting minutes of May 1, 2003.**
Vote: Unanimously approved.

II. **Committee Reports**

A. **Executive Committee** - Marilyn Potgiesser reported the Executive Committee has approved a number of plans for WIA, WF and ES for the new program year. The Executive Committee also approved reappointments and new appointments to the WDB and Marilyn welcomed Margie Hojara-Hadsell, representing MRS to the board. Marilyn also reported the morning news reported that TAA/NAFTA funds were received by surrounding areas and stated that although Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Counties were not mentioned in the news story, they also received these funds.

B. **Monitoring and Evaluation Committee** – Jerry Love reported the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee did not meet over the summer. The committee will meet on Thursday, September 18 to review the Partners in Adult Learning Programs in Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties.

C. **Marketing Committee** – Kathy Olsen reported this year’s nomination for the WDB Commitment to Excellence Award is Jakki May, an employee of Employment and Training Connections. The award will be presented at the November WDB meeting. Kathy also reported the Michigan Works Employment and Career Forum was held on August 12, 2003 and over 340 individuals attended. The focus of the one-day event was a series of employment and career workshops designed to assist these individuals in becoming better prepared in their search for employment, discovering what skills they already had, and how to use those skills to find new employment and in making career decisions. Representatives from several area employers, educators, community organizations and the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Workforce Development Board volunteered to present at the workshops where they offered their professional advice and guidance.

- III. **Program** – George Erickcek, Senior Regional Analyst for the W.E. Upjohn Institute spoke about the economic outlook for Kalamazoo County. His presentation covered national trends, the county’s economy that included the impact of the Pfizer downsizing, a long-term outlook and the challenges facing small metro areas.

- IV. **Staff Reports** – Bob Straits reported performance under the Workforce Investment Act is on target for the first quarter. The reauthorization of WIA is currently before Congress and what will be included in the reauthorization is uncertain. It is expected that performance standards with more emphasis on long-term follow-up and quality will be included. A number of the individuals served in the Dislocated Worker Program are entering training that is costly, thus fewer individuals can be served with available funding. The new program year for Employment Services began July 1 and there continues to be a high number of individuals seeking work while the number of employers using the services has dropped from previous years. Funding for the state-funded, Partnership in Adult Learning Program was reduced to approximately ten percent of last years level. This is a significant reduction and staff are

communicating with Goodwill Industries and Three Rivers Adult Education regarding future local plans for this program.

