

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Executive Committee Meeting
November 7, 2002

Chair Joe Herdus called the Workforce Development Board Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m. at Michigan Works/Upjohn Institute, 536 West Lovell Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan Works.

Committee Members Present: Thom Brennan (PS), Lisa Godfrey (PS) Joe Herdus (PS), Mary Oudsema (PS), Pat Pangburn (PS), Marilyn Potgiesser (PS), Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh (CBO)
Membership – 9, Attendance –7 (78%), PS (88%)

Staff Present: Kathy Olsen, Kara Stewart, Bob Straits

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the Workforce Development Board Executive Committee meeting minutes of
Marilyn Potgiesser October 3, 2002
Support: Thom Brennan. Vote: Unanimously approved.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Status of State Unemployment Agency – Bob Straits reported the state has been discussing changing the Unemployment Agency to remote centers for processing unemployment claims where applicants will have three methods, mail, Internet or telephone, to apply for benefits. Due to the large number of early retirements, UA accelerated the process during this past month. Customers are experiencing an extremely long wait when they call the 1-800 number that was provided to them. Customers are going to the service centers for assistance, especially where UA has been co-located, however, the forms to be used that were initially provided by UA were incorrect. Employment Services staff are not compensated to assist with UA issues, in fact UA prefers that they not do this; however, ES is doing their best to diffuse anxieties and give good customer service.

2. Appointment of Alternate Member to WDB

MOTION: To approve the appointment of Richard Anderson to serve as an alternate
Thom Brennan member for Steve DeKilder, representing labor. The appointment is for the balance of a two-year term beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2002 and for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2003 and ending December 31, 2004.

B. Monitoring and Evaluation Committee - Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh reported the committee met at Employment and Training Connections (ETC) to review the WIA adult and dislocated worker core services, youth services and adult intensive services. ETC is ahead of goals in the number of participants being served and there did not appear to be a slowdown in services due to the higher number of participants. The feedback from the participants interviewed was overwhelming supportive of the staff and the time taken with participants. This was the first meeting for a number of new committee members and the committee appreciated the fact that Kara and Kathy met with the new members prior to the meeting. Kara reported that internal monitoring found ETC files in order. Suprotik reminded members there is an additional subcontractor providing services for the special youth initiative and the committee will have an additional subcontract to review at a later date this program year.

C. Marketing Committee

1. Chamber Before Hours Event - Mary Oudsema reported the Chamber Before Hours event that was held at the Kalamazoo Chamber went very well. The Michigan Works display is very attractive, the office is very nice and the event was successful regarding raising awareness of Michigan Works.

2. **Workers on Wheels Program** - Currently MW staff are working with Goodwill staff to increase awareness of the success of the Workers on Wheels Program where an overwhelming high number of participants who have received automobiles are still employed.
3. **Alumni Award** – Kathy Olsen reported a number of nominations were received for the annual Alumni Award and staff are recommending the selection of a husband and wife who both participated in the program and have proven successful in their employment and self-sufficiency. Both individuals were in the Work First Program. The gentleman, Robert McGowen, began his employment as a custodian at Goodwill Industries, has advanced on the job and is now a custodial supervisor. The woman, Brenda McGowen secured employment as a parent educator for the County Community Health Agency in St. Joseph County where she assists families who are in the same position she was once in. Brenda is now teaching classes she once participated in and Robert is in the position where he hires Work First participants.

MOTION: To approve the selection of Robert and Brenda McGowen as the 2003 Alumni Award recipients representing Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties.
Mary Oudsema
Support: Thom Brennan. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

III. STAFF REPORTS

- A. **Program Status Report** – Bob Straits reported we are at or near program goals in programs funded under the *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)*. The Dislocated Worker Program is a bit short due to a slow start-up as a result of the TAA-NAFTA shortage of state funds. Companies must be qualified under this program in order for participants to be enrolled and receive services; and the state made changes to this program during the month of October and again this month. *Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Programs* appear to be on target and expenditure levels will be at approximately 98% in the WtW, Reed Act and Work First Programs. Numbers being served are ahead of goals under Employment Services. Many of those using the service centers are seeking employment services, not unemployment benefits. ES is considering adding a staff person to assist and direct individuals as they enter the building.
- B. **Legislative Update** – Bob Straits reported not much has changed since the committee last met; it is still uncertain what will happen with TANF and WIA funding. Many changes are expected at the state level with a new the Governor. Some of the funding areas most likely to be affected would be the Strategic Plan, Partnerships in Adult Learning and the Incumbent Worker Program. Many of the new initiatives could be frozen and seeking outside funding could be very beneficial. It will be an interesting year to see what policies pass at both the state and federal levels at the same time.

- IV. **MEMBERS TIME** – Suprotik inquired whether or not the WDB could do fundraising. There are no strong feelings as to who would be the fiduciary if this was done.
- V. **CITIZENS TIME** – Kathy Olsen distributed updated copies of the WDB roster and the 2003 meeting dates. These items will be mailed to members not present at the meeting.
- V. **UPCOMING MEETINGS** – Members were reminded the next full WDB meeting is Tuesday, November 12, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. at KVCC Arcadia Commons Campus. Craig Schreuder and Jan Smith will present an overview of all current programs and Kara Stewart will review last year's programs. Bridget Timmeney will provide information regarding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) initiative. Locally there has been a lot of effort devoted to this project to assist those in poverty. A large percentage of individuals do not take advantage of what they can receive. Last year, staff worked with Sandy Lipsey's office on this project; this year the Upjohn Institute is providing funding for the initiative along with a recent grant received from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. Staff are concentrating on increasing public awareness and recruiting volunteers. Tim Bartik, a research analyst for the Upjohn Institute is conducting the statistical research on the initiative.

The next WDB Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2002 at 7:30 a.m. and the next Monitoring and Evaluation meeting will be at the Kalamazoo Service Center on Thursday, November 21, 2002 at 7:30 a.m. for the purpose of reviewing the Dislocated Worker Program contract with HRDI.

- VII. **ADJOURNMENT** - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Herdus at 810 a.m.

Robert A. Straits

Date

Joseph Herdus

Date