

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

August 27, 2009

The Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board met Thursday, August 27, 2009 at the Clinton Township Michigan Works Office, 43630 Hayes Road, Clinton Township MI with the following members present (✓ denotes private sector):

AT ROLL CALL:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| ✓ Patricia Anger | George Kovtun |
| Ken Austin | Mike Moran |
| ✓ Frank Blowers | Philip Papes |
| ✓ David Brandt | Gary Polulak |
| Nancy Falcone | ✓ Charles Shaw |
| ✓ Patti Gendernalik | Erin Smith |
| ✓ Carl Gervason | Rene Stephan |
| ✓ Peter Keating | Jennie Tunnell |

ARRIVALS AFTER QUORUM CALLED:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| John Bozymowski | ✓ William Morelli |
| ✓ Dominic LaRosa | ✓ Kristine Tremble |
| ✓ Mary Matuja | ✓ Mike Weigand |

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Lillian Adams | ✓ Scott Orts |
| ✓ John Daoud | William Peterson |
| ✓ Robert Doetsch | ✓ Rick Regan |
| ✓ Mike Kramer | ✓ Paul Reiz |

OTHERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| John Bierbusse | Joe Dueweke |
| Marsha Prose | Jim Patterson |
| Doreen MacDonald | Deborah Porter |
| Diane Weiss | Brenda Etheridge |
| Kathy Jordon | Roy Sera |

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1. Call to Order

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken with 16 members present (7 private sector).

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

PATRICIA ANGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2009 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY PETER KEATING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Chairperson's Report

Mr. Shaw thanked everyone for attending. (*Weigand arrived*)

5. Committee Reports

A. Michigan Works Service Centers Committee

1. Meeting of August 18, 2009

a. Recommendation to Approve PY'09 Service Centers Operations Grant

Jennie Tunnell reported that the 2009 service center operations grant allocation is \$389,911 and will be used to support activities improving customer service by informing and educating the public regarding the centers, along with upgrading facilities. These funds assist in offsetting center costs.

PHIL PAPES MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY'09 MICHIGAN WORKS SERVICE CENTER OPERATIONS GRANT AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(*Morelli arrived*)

b. Recommendation to Approve Security Guards for Macomb Service Centers

Growing concerns over staff safety resulted in a bid solicitation which led to the retaining of a private security company for uniformed, unarmed guards at each of the four Macomb County Michigan Works centers. ProGuard Security Services of Troy is providing full-time guard service and charging the Workforce Development Board a flat hourly rate of \$11.70. The contract is month-by-month and can be modified or terminated at any time. Since the building that houses the Port Huron office also houses the police department, there is no need to hire guards for that site.

GARY POLULAK MOVED TO APPROVE HIRING OF SECURITY GUARDS FOR THE FOUR MACOMB COUNTY MICHIGAN WORKS OFFICES; SUPPORT BY PHIL PAPES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(*Bozymowski and Matuja arrived*)

c. Informational Items

i. Enhanced Employment Services

The board has received \$962,300 through the competitive grant request made in June. The plan clarifies that services will be provided to U I claimants rather than the general public. These funds will be targeted to white collar unemployed.

(*LaRosa arrived*)

ii. Relocation and Expansion of Service Centers

Ms. Tunnell reported that additional space at the Clinton Township atrium office site was secured on the opposite side of the building. An additional 4600 square feet negotiated at a lower price houses ten (10) case managers and a four (4) clerical follow-up unit.

Space has been leased at both campuses of Macomb Community College, which will house three (3) case managers at each site. The lease includes computers, telephones, utilities, supplies and access to copiers, fax

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machines and reasonable information technology assistance. The \$600 monthly charge for each site began August 10th and will terminate August 10, 2011.

Two classrooms have been leased at St. Clair County Community College to house job club and job placement activities for the JET program. The lease includes space and utilities at a cost of \$2,389 and commenced August 17th on a year-to-year basis with a 90-day termination notice.

The joint venture, Macomb/St. Clair Automotive Career Transition Center and the UAW-Chrysler National Training Center in Warren, provides five classrooms and office space to house 37 staff. Rent is \$12,500 monthly for 10,000 square feet and includes utilities. The lease began August 10th and terminates July 31, 2011 with a renewal option at lease end at a 4% rent increase.

(Tremble arrived)

A request for quote was released seeking additional space in the Roseville/Warren area to accommodate the large volume of customers. Two responses were received. The current landlord proposes expansion of the Roseville office. The other bidder offered a building at a higher rate that would require rehabilitation to become usable. Staff is seeking to work with the landlord for expansion of the current site.

iii. Macomb Food Program

The Macomb County Michigan Works offices will be participating in a food program to distribute food vouchers to the newly unemployed as part of a joint venture with Macomb County Community Services Agency and the Macomb Food Program, who are requesting a grant of \$166,909. Michigan Works staff will identify eligible customers who are newly unemployed for less than one year and are residents of the county. They will receive a self-declaration form to be used to claim their voucher card. Cards are for Meijer's and will be labeled for food only. Vouchers will be issued for \$100 or \$200 based on family size - families of five or more will receive the \$200 voucher.

iv. Service Center Traffic Flow

Ms. Tunnell reported a slight decrease in traffic among the service centers in the past month. More than 9,000 people visited Macomb County centers and over 1,600 visited the St Clair County center in July. Unemployment figures are over 20% in St Clair County and 18.4% in Macomb. She reported that the attempt to alleviate traffic at the Roseville site by opening a site in Warren has not worked. Traffic has significantly increased in both offices.

B. Youth Advisory Committee

1. Meeting of August 19, 2009

a. Recommendation to Release Request for Proposal for Additional Programs

Mr. Blowers reported that due to a slight increase in funding over last year and a significant amount of carry-in which could provide for new programs, staff is requesting permission to release a Request for Proposal for additional youth projects.

DOMINIC LaROSA MOVED TO RELEASE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMS; SUPPORT BY RENE STEPHAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Informational Items

i. Report on Summer Youth Program

There were 380 students served during the WIA continuum portion of the summer youth program. Six school districts participated providing work experience in areas such as culinary arts, landscaping, website development, tutoring, automotive technology, health occupations, entrepreneurships, construction and video production. The majority of students evaluated felt the program was worthwhile.

While the target number of participants was 2,000, the recovery act summer program employed 1,926 participants and 241 job coaches, 36 of whom qualified as participants, over the course of the summer. More

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than 200 public and private nonprofit worksites were developed throughout the two counties, with an emphasis on green projects.

The board provided assistance for the county's payroll department; however, payroll remained an issue throughout the program. Consequently, special payrolls were run in order to keep the process up to date.

While funding was available for two years, funds have been expended and unless there is an additional infusion of money, there will not be a summer program of this magnitude next year.

Mr. Blowers reported that presentations by two summer service providers were delivered to the committee. Michelle Irwin of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools had reported on a Career Pathways project attended by over 100 students. A short video of the program was viewed. They are also applying to present the project to the youth symposium in Chicago this fall.

Gayla Folsom of Mt. Clemens Community Schools had reported that more than 100 young people participated in projects involving recreation, culinary arts, video production and tutorial components. Transportation for many students was an issue that was resolved by using the local public bus system. Some of the local churches are assisting a number of students in providing transportation to college.

C. Education & Adult Programs Committee

1. Meeting of August 20, 2009

a. Recommendation to Approve National Career Readiness Certificate Program

The State of Michigan has developed a Michigan National Career Readiness Certificate, a credential based on three core ACT WorkKeys assessments to measure real world foundational skills critical to job success. Implementation of the tool will begin October 1st. The board's JET program has been using this tool for more than two years. Customers will be encouraged to include the certificate with their resumes. In addition to the WorkKeys assessment, the State has established standards for individuals to earn an Employability Skills certificate. The certificate includes 12 areas of employability skills training requiring 16 hours in length. There are three funding sources for this initiative; i.e., the Wagner-Peyser employment service contributes \$51,210; the recovery act employment services will contribute \$204,888; and WIA statewide activities will contribute \$120,205. Staff has formed a partnership with Macomb Community College and St. Clair County Community College to operate the WorkKeys assessment program.

FRANK BLOWERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MICHIGAN NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE INITIATIVE AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI.

The challenge is to make the business community aware of the WorkKeys value. Ms. Tremble stated that her employer, ALD Thermal Treatment, is committed to using as a hiring tool.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Recommendation to Approve National Emergency Grant (NEG) Application

The State of Michigan has applied for National Emergency Grant funds to assist those people impacted by the significant job losses in the auto industry. The request was spurred by lobbying from the local area MWA directors to get more dollars directed to this initiative.

Mr. Bierbusse met with UAW/Chrysler, southeast Michigan Works directors and State representatives to request \$32 million to provide services to displaced auto workers. If the initiative is approved by the federal Department of Labor, it is expected that \$7.5 million will be made available locally to operate the UAW Chrysler Auto Transition Center in Warren. Members will be kept informed of any progress.

MARY MATUJA MOVED TO APPROVE SUBMISSION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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c. Informational Items

i. Plant Closure Report

One closure was reported. Faurecia Automotive Seating in Shelby Township will permanently close the site beginning August 22nd through September 25th affecting 111 employees. A worker orientation is scheduled for September.

Trade certification was received by General Motors Global Purchasing & Supply Chain Management, Chrysler LLC Sterling Heights Vehicle Test Center, Ring Screw - Acument Global Technologies in Sterling Heights, and Advanced Accessory Systems in Port Huron.

Mr. Kovtun reported that with the reauthorization of the trade programs, regulations will be affected. Training time will be expanded to 156 weeks and customers will have 26 weeks to register for the program.

ii. Media Coverage

Both the New York Times and the Washington Post newspapers gave front page coverage to stories concerning dislocated workers in the Detroit metropolitan area. Mr. Bierbusse noted that while one reporter sought outcomes for 30 individuals, he focused on those who were unsuccessful in finding employment.

Coverage through CNN was also reported which covered the auto industry and the career challenges faced by those affected.

iii. Aging Worker Initiative

In February, an application for a demonstration grant to service aging workers was submitted to the federal government on behalf of southeast Michigan. More than 131 applications were submitted nationwide with only ten approved. Locally, there is \$979,400 to operate a 36-month grant which includes start up activities, follow-up and close out. Actual operation will be for 18 months with a six-month start up period and a one-year follow-up of program participants. Thirty (30) staff will be trained as navigators to assist in career exploration and the development of appropriate career ladders, basic skills remediation if necessary, vocational training, soft skills related to job search and intensive case management. These navigators will be housed in all 27 Michigan Works service centers operated by the six agencies in southeast Michigan. Navigators will also be housed with the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, Operation Able and Macomb Community College.

The AARP Foundation's *WorkSearch* assessment tool will be used. Macomb Community College will implement an assessment referred to as *Credit for Prior Learning Experience* which evaluates older workers' life skills and awards credit as appropriate to make obtaining a degree or certificate occur in a reasonable amount of time.

The program anticipates serving 1,397 individuals 55 years and older who are unemployed or incumbent workers at any income level. Goals are for 80% to enter employment.

6. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Bierbusse reported that unemployment figures reflect a higher unemployment rate than experienced in the 1980s. Approximately 2,000 UI claimants are exhausting their benefits monthly and it is anticipated that more than 10,000 in Macomb County will have exhausted benefits by the end of the year. Senator Levin's office reports no bill is yet to be introduced to extend exhausted benefits.

7. Other Business

Kristine Tremble reported she is working on a project and is seeking information on national organizations that will assist the homeless population.

8. Hearing of the Public

Roy Sera asked that the board reconsider his client's proposal to provide a building to replace the current Roseville site.

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9. Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next general meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Thursday, September 24, 2009. Members will be notified.

10. Adjournment

FRANK BLOWERS MOVED TO ADJOURN; SUPPORT BY PATRICIA ANGER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne
Recording Secretary