

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

December 4, 2008

The Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board met Thursday, December 4, 2008 at the Italian American Cultural Society/Partridge Creek Banquet Center, 43843 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township, Michigan with the following members present (✓ denotes private sector):

AT ROLL CALL:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Patricia Anger | ✓ Mike Kramer |
| Ken Austin | ✓ Mary Matuja |
| ✓ Frank Blowers | Mike Moran |
| John Bozymowski | ✓ William Morelli |
| ✓ David Brandt | Philip Papes |
| ✓ Patti Gendernalik | Gary Polulak |
| ✓ Carl Gervason | ✓ Rick Regan |
| ✓ Peter Keating | ✓ Charles Shaw |
| George Kovtun | Erin Smith |

ARRIVALS AFTER QUORUM CALLED:

N/A

MEMBERS ABSENT:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Lillian Adams | ✓ Scott Orts |
| ✓ John Daoud | William Peterson |
| Nancy Falcone | ✓ Paul Reiz |
| ✓ Dominic LaRosa | Jennie Tunnell |
| Angelo Nicholas | |

OTHERS PRESENT:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| John Bierbusse | Patty Madigan |
| Del Becker | Julie Marlowe |
| Laurie Becker | Linda McLatcher |
| Larry Sobieski | Terry McIlhargey |
| Deborah Bouts | Marsha Prose |
| Bob Apczynski | Stacy Schuller |
| Ethel Ballard | Deborah Szatkiewski |
| Tari Darlington | Martha Waroway |
| Beth Diehl | Allen West |
| Allen Eisenhauer | Jean Wurmlinger |
| Debbie Farrell | Ya Yang |
| Bernice Kerner | |

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with 18 members present (11 private sector).

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

MARY MATUJA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2008 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY FRANK BLOWERS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **Chairperson's Report**

Mr. Shaw announced the resignation of Charles Michel, who will be sorely missed. Mr. Shaw strongly encouraged members to participate at the committee level; a sign-up sheet was made available. Donations for Project Read, which is designed to provide children's books at the various service centers, was also encouraged.

5. **Committee Reports**

A. Education & Adult Programs Committee

1. Meeting of November 20, 2008

a. Recommendation to Request Additional Dislocated Worker Funds

Mr. Kovtun reported that due to a significant increase in training obligations, the board has petitioned the State of Michigan for an additional \$3.2 million of dislocated worker funds. Members reviewed a handout reflecting enrollment comparisons between 2007 versus 2008 for the identical time frame. By early November of 2007 there were 245 customers enrolled in the adult program versus 638 in 2008. Similarly, the dislocated worker program has seen an increase from 209 customers in 2007 versus 373 in 2008. This represents a 133% increase in customer enrollment for these two WIA programs.

Last month, the board requested authority to transfer 100% of WIA funds between the adult and dislocated worker programs. Currently, a limit of 30% is allowable. If the funding request is approved, these dollars will be transferred into the adult program.

Justification for the board's request is based on the high number of plant closures experienced locally in the past year. It is anticipated that the request can provide services to 1,115 customers.

FRANK BLOWERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDS AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY PATRICIA ANGER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Recommendation to Approve FY'09 No Worker Left Behind GF/GP Plan

The State of Michigan approved \$15 million for the *No Worker Left Behind* initiative. The \$10 million to be distributed to the Michigan Works network was reduced to \$2 million in order to reserve funds for the weakening auto industry. Therefore, the portion available to the Macomb/St Clair WDB is \$228,644. Administrative costs are allowable up to 3%. The remaining \$221,785 will be directed into classroom training for 67 participants.

JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE GF/GP NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND PLAN AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GARY POLULAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Informational Item

i. Plant Closures

Two more closures were reported. L&L Products in Romeo announced an impending layoff due to the current state of the auto industry affecting 100 employees on their third shift. An orientation was conducted November 3rd and 5th where 71 employees attended.

Flex N Gate in Warren reported a layoff in December affecting 106 employees again due to the current state of the auto industry. A rapid response meeting was held November 14th. A worker orientation will be scheduled in the very near future.

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B. Administrative Committee

1. Meeting of November 13, 2008

a. Recommendation to Approve FY'09 No Worker Left Behind GF/GP Budget

Mr. Shaw reported that as stated earlier the State of Michigan approved \$15 million for the *No Worker Left Behind* initiative. The \$10 million to be distributed to the Michigan Works network was reduced to \$2 million in order to reserve funds for the weakening auto industry. Therefore, the portion available to the Macomb/St Clair WDB is \$228,644 with administrative costs allowable up to 3%. The remaining \$221,785 will be directed into customer classroom training.

PATRICIA ANGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY'09 GF/GP NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Recommendation to Approve Chrysler Project Budget

Staff continues to meet with company representatives at Chrysler Corporation where a partnership between the company and UAW has been created to provide job training and placement assistance through the *No Worker Left Behind* initiative for those employees who take the early retirement or buyout offers. Separation date is December 31, 2008. Meetings have been held with employees to inform them of the core elements of the program, which includes up to two years of free tuition at any Michigan community college, university, or other approved training program allowing up to \$5,000 per year or \$10,000 total for training. Participants must complete a skills assessment administered by Michigan Works and must enroll in high demand occupations or emerging industry occupations. This is a one-time offer and participants have six months from date of separation to register. It is not yet known how many employees are interested. An allocation of \$300,000 was budgeted locally. Of this, \$20,000 will be directed to administer the program with the remaining \$280,000 directed to classroom training.

GARY POLULAK MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHRYSLER NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY PHILIP PAPES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Recommendation to Modify FY'09 JET Plus Budget

The initially approved budget for the JET Plus program was created with draft instruction. This modification rearranges the budget to accommodate the actual plan. For example, the work subsidies line item was greatly reduced since public assistance participants are required to work off their grant each month; therefore, any minimum wage earnings paid to customers by the Board will not be as high as anticipated. An increase to the JET projects line item is due to increased counseling and seminars provided by the various JET service providers. It is also anticipated that auto related expenses will increase as customers are eligible for support services for up to one year upon exiting the program.

PATRICIA ANGER MOVED TO MODIFY THE FY'09 JET PLUS BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY MARY MATUJA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Informational Items

i. Trade Adjustment Assistance Expenditure Report

Funds for the trade program are requested as needed and the organization is reimbursed for actual expenditures. The year-to-date final report compares \$1,621,873.17 expended in 2007 versus \$3,780,773.85 in 2008. This large increase continues as a direct result of local plant closures where trade certifications have been approved by the federal government. Comparison for the first month of the new fiscal year reflect October 2007 at \$142,217.86 versus \$131,811.14 in October 2008.

6. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Bierbusse reported that the State of Michigan has released an additional \$5 million of No Worker Left Behind GF/GP funds that can be accessed through a request process which reports that an agency has

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obligated current funds or has special need for this money. A recommendation would typically be brought to the board through the committee process; however, Mr. Bierbusse explained that he expects all the Michigan Works agencies statewide to petition for funds and wished to present his request to the board to obtain funds quickly. The \$627,500 requested will be used to train an additional 283 eligible adults.

GEORGE KOVTUN MOVED TO APPROVE A REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$627,500 OF *NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND* GF/GP FUNDS FOR ELIGIBLE ADULT CUSTOMERS; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Del Becker opted to resign from the board of directors after more than 25 years of service. Mr. Bierbusse honored her dedication and commitment to the board with a plaque. Ms. Becker thanked the members and commended them for continuing their work of assisting the community.

Mr. Bierbusse next introduced staff members who were in attendance. The board of directors thanked all for their hard work and diligence during the past year.

7. Other Business

There was no other business

8. Hearing of the Public

There were no comments by the public.

9. Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next general meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Thursday, January 22, 2009. Members will be notified.

10. Adjournment

MARY MATUJA MOVED TO ADJOURN; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne
Recording Secretary