

EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 20, 2009

I. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

George Kovtun
Dave Brandt
John Bozymowski

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jennie Tunnell
Gary Polulak
Ken Austin
Mike Moran

OTHERS PRESENT

John Bierbusse
Linda McLatcher
Marsha Prose

Mr. Kovtun called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 18, 2009 EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES
JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2009 AS PRESENTED;
SUPPORT BY DAVE BRANDT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)*

a. 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.

Ms. McLatcher 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.

b. Newspaper Articles and 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. Members reviewed the articles. Mr. Bierbusse noted that while one reporter sought outcomes for 30 individuals, he focused on those who were unsuccessful in finding employment.

IV. Recommendation to Approve Funding for 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. The challenge is to make the business community aware of the WorkKeys value. 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.

After review and discussion, **DAVE BRANDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MICHIGAN NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE INITIATIVE AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JOHN BOZYMOWSKI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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V. Outcome of Proposal for Aging Workers Initiative Demonstration Grant

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. We will receive \$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.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Regional Economic Impact National Emergency Grant

a. 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, it is expected that \$4.5 million will be made available locally to operate the UAW Chrysler Auto Transition Center in Warren. If not approved, the initiative will continue with training through the *No Worker Left Behind* program. Members will be kept informed of any progress.

JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE SUBMISSION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY DAVE BRANDT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne
Recording Secretary