

EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 20, 2008

I. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

George Kovtun
Gary Polulak
Dave Brandt
Debbie Bouts
John Bozymowski

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Moran
Jennie Tunnell

OTHERS PRESENT

John Bierbusse

Mr. Kovtun called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 16, 2008 EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES

JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2008 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GARY POLULAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA)

a. Recommendation to Request Additional Dislocated Worker Funds

Due to a significant increase in training obligations, Mr. Bierbusse announced that he 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. Mr. Bierbusse indicated that he expects the board's request to be approved. When that occurs and if the funding request is approved, these dollars will be transferred into the adult program. Request approval will not be acknowledged by the State any earlier than December 11th when DELEG's administrative board will meet; however, the request was required for submission at least two weeks prior to their meeting.

Justification for the board's request is based on the high number of plant closures experienced locally in the past year. The news reports today confirmed that the unemployment rate is currently at 9.3%. Including those who apply for unemployment benefits and are profiled to determine whether they will be able to return to their occupation, it is anticipated that the request can provide services to 1,115 customers.

To meet the demand, Mr. Bierbusse has asked that the Macomb/St. Clair Employment and Training Agency increase their case managers by six.

After review and discussion, **DAVE BRANDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDS AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY GARY POLULAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Informational Items

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

Education & Adult Programs Committee November 20, 2008

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.

ii. Reduction of Workforce at Chrysler

As reported last month, Chrysler announced a new round of buyouts for 5,000 white collar employees. Of that number, 1,500 are contracted employees who will be terminated. Employees have until November 26th to make a decision. While not all are located in Michigan, it is expected that at least 2,500 employees will be affected in southeast Michigan. If the target number is not reached, Chrysler will begin lay offs December 23rd.

The State has prepared a request to the federal government for additional funds through the National Emergency Grant program to provide for those affected by the auto industry's collapse. A consortium with the Governor's office, the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Development, and southeast Michigan Works Associations has been forged to address the crisis. Concerns are high regarding the loss of talent. A Talent Transition Team was created consisting of universities, community colleges, economic development representatives and the Michigan Works system. Mr. Bierbusse attends these meetings. Other teams address diversification, and communication/marketing. Members will continue to be updated.

IV. GENERAL FUND/GENERAL PURPOSE (GF/GP)

a. Recommendation to Approve FY'09 *No Worker Left Behind* 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.

After review and discussion, **DEBBIE BOUTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GF/GP NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND PLAN AND TO PRESENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY GARY POLULAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne
Recording Secretary