

EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 19, 2009

I. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Moran
Gary Polulak
John Bozymowski
Jennie Tunnell
Dave Brandt

MEMBERS ABSENT

George Kovtun
Ken Austin

OTHERS PRESENT

John Bierbusse
Linda McLatcher

Mr. Bozymowski called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2009 EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES

JENNIE TUNNELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2009 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GARY POLULAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA)

a. Recommendation to Approve Plan Modifications

i. Adult

All MWAs are expected to expend 85% of their allocation within the year allocated. If more than 15% remains, the State redistributes those remaining excess carry-in funds to those agencies who did meet the 85% expenditure rate. Therefore, the Macomb/St Clair WDB received an additional \$63,555 to incorporate into the current adult program plan. Due to the *No Worker Left Behind* initiative, \$1.5 million from the dislocated worker program was transferred into the adult program thereby making the total transfer to date at \$5 million.

Members reviewed a handout reflecting adult classroom training enrollment goals for each of the five service centers. In order to be more in line with the traffic flow within each office and an increase in funds, the third and fourth quarter goals were revised. The Mt. Clemens office third quarter goal was decreased by 7 and the fourth quarter increased by five. The Port Huron office third quarter goal was increased by 163; the fourth quarter increased by 236. The Clinton Township office third quarter goal decreased by 16; the fourth quarter goal increased by 32. The Roseville office third quarter goal increased by 67; fourth quarter goal by 118. The Warren office third quarter goal increased by 1; the fourth quarter goal by 27.

It is anticipated that overall, the final quarter will reflect an increase of 418 classroom training enrollees for a total of 1,763 in the 2008 program year.

It was further reported that the Clinton Township office is beginning to experience an equal amount of traffic as the Roseville site.

After review and discussion, **GARY POLULAK MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'08 ADULT PROGRAM PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JENNIE TUNNELL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ii. Dislocated Worker

As approved by the board at the December meeting, an additional \$3,250,000 was requested from the State for the Dislocated Worker program. The State announced that it would release these funds piecemeal. Last month 40% of funds were initially allocated and \$1.3 million was incorporated into the dislocated worker

**Education & Adult Programs Committee
February 19, 2009**

program plan. The remaining \$1.95 million has been released and is incorporated into the current plan. Also received is \$45,522 in excess carry-in funds.

As previously reported, \$1.5 million was transferred into the adult program plan. With these adjustments, the current program budget has increased approximately \$600,000.

Members reviewed a handout reflecting dislocated worker classroom training enrollment goals for each of the five service centers. Third and fourth quarter enrollment goals were revised to accommodate additional dollars and traffic flow. The Mt. Clemens office third quarter goal was decreased by 6 and the fourth quarter increased by five. The Port Huron office third quarter goal was increased by 18; the fourth quarter increased by 36. The Clinton Township office third quarter goal decreased by 27; the fourth quarter goal decreased by 25. The Roseville office third quarter goal increased by 15; fourth quarter goal by 37. The Warren office third quarter goal increased by 2; the fourth quarter goal by 29.

It is anticipated that overall, the final quarter will reflect an increase of 112 dislocated worker classroom training enrollees for a total of 1,152 in the 2008 program year.

After review and discussion, **GARY POLULAK MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'08 DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY MIKE MORAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

iii. Youth

With the receipt of excess carry-in funds this late into the program year, the youth plan will incorporate funds into the budget to be carried in to the next program year.

GARY POLULAK MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'08 YOUTH PROGRAM PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY DAVE BRANDT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Informational Items

i. Training Occupation Report

Members reviewed a handout reflecting WIA occupational enrollments comparing trends for the past five years. Ms. McLatcher noted that various changes of customer demand reflect today's population experiencing job losses. More white collar people are affected today than in past years. Staff is seeing a higher demand for training in areas of management, business and financial, and computer science occupations. There is a higher training demand in the health care and transportation sectors. It was noted that PY'07 enrollments might have been even higher than reflected if the agency had not froze enrollments during the third quarter of the year due to lack of funds.

Similar statistics for the trade program were reviewed reflecting similar results. Since these customers are affected by job losses due to foreign competition, most are enrolled in advanced training programs that have a one or two year training time. These customers can extend their unemployment benefits for two years if they are attending a training program.

Ms. McLatcher gave a brief description of the ONET system where occupations are clearly defined citing in-depth job descriptions, demand, training curriculum, etc.

ii. Enrollment Report

A comparison between the past two years of enrollments into training programs was reviewed. Statistics reflect a doubling of customers. The WIA Adult program has increased from 611 to 1,243 customers; the dislocated worker program increased from 398 to 747. The report was filed.

**Education & Adult Programs Committee
February 19, 2009**

iii. Plant Closures

Two closures were reported. The Dupont Paint Plant in Mt Clemens notified the State regarding layoff of 40 employees at the end of February due to restructuring in manufacturing and security operations. Seniority ranges between 10 and 20 years. Those affected have been offered an educational package totaling \$5,000 for a two-year time period which will be leveraged with the *No Worker Left Behind* program. An orientation was held February 4th with 32 attending.

St. Clair Plastics in Chesterfield closed abruptly January 16th affecting 100 employees. The local machinist union informed staff that the company is currently in receivership. No other demographic information is available. However, the local union has assisted in the coordination of a worker orientation, which was held February 12th with 61 in attendance.

Staff continues to work with Chrysler Corporation. Employees at Warren Stamping and Sterling Heights Stamping plants have been trade certified. Both the Warren Truck Plant and Sterling Heights Assembly Plant have applied for trade certification. Staff is also working with the Oakland County MWA to provide assistance to employees at the Auburn Hills facility.

As the need for Michigan Works services continue to increase, the board's Macomb County service provider who provides case management has been asked to increase their staff by six additional positions. Cubicles have been added in the Port Huron, Clinton Township and Roseville offices. A possibility of a short-term lease with the landlord at the Clinton Township atrium office is under discussion.

IV. Jobs, Education & Training (JET)

a. Recommendation to Approve Plan Modification

The JET program, formerly known as Work First, services customers receiving welfare benefits. Legislation requires that a minimum of 50% of all work eligible cash welfare recipients participate in defined activities for 20 hours per week if the youngest child is under age six; and 30 hours per week if the youngest child is over six. The regulations clearly define both core activities and non-core activities. The challenge is to design individual program plans that meet the needs of each individual and include the required mix of core and non-core activities.

The State unexpectedly announced distribution of additional General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) expansion funds increasing the budget by \$363,597. These new funds will be targeted to classroom training and current JET projects with 10% allotted for administrative costs.

Also made available is an increase of \$58,884 of excess WIA carry-in dollars; a GF/GP contribution reflecting a local increase of \$71,406; and a local TANF contribution increased of \$76,406. Therefore, the plan was modified to incorporate approximately \$600,000 to provide additional direct and support services.

After review and discussion, **DAVE BRANDT MOVED TO MODIFY THE FY'09 JET PROGRAM PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY MIKE MORAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. Recommendation to Submit Proposal to the U.S. Department of Labor

a. Older Worker Demonstration Grant

The U.S. Department of Labor announced at the end of December availability of \$10 million for older worker demonstration grants with the anticipation of awarding ten to thirteen grants nationwide amounting from \$750,000 to \$1 million. Various local entities are interested in the grant. Macomb/St Clair WDB staff agreed to take the lead for the seven county area since the board currently operates a senior program servicing southeast Michigan. The application was prepared and submitted to meet the USDOL deadline requesting \$979,400 leveraging State and Federal funds. The period of performance is 36 months and will include implementation & start-up activities, participant outcomes and grant closeout activities. Those eligible must be 55 years of age and older, unemployed or incumbent workers. There is no income level requirement. If

**Education & Adult Programs Committee
February 19, 2009**

approved, this project will provide 30 older worker navigator positions who will facilitate the process of career exploration, career ladders, access basic skills remediation if necessary, selection of appropriate vocational training, or training in soft skills related to job search providing intense case management until the customer gains employment.

These navigators will be housed at all Michigan Works service centers operated by the six Michigan Works agencies in southeast Michigan; with the Detroit Area Agency on Aging; Operation Able; and Macomb County Community College. AARP Foundation's *WorkSearch* assessment tool will be used for career exploration. Macomb Community College will implement an assessment, *Credit for Prior Learning and Experience*, to evaluate older workers' life skills and award credits as appropriate in order to make obtaining degrees or certificates in a reasonable amount of time a reality. Training may only be in occupations and industries for which employers pay H-1B visa applications. The AARP assessment tool will be field tested regardless of whether the grant is approved.

After review and discussion, **GARY POLULAK MOVED TO APPROVE SUBMISSION OF OLDER WORKER DEMONSTRATION GRANT PROPOSAL AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JENNIE TUNNELL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Bierbusse distributed an email received from DELEG's Deputy Director, Andy Levin, which reports that the Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board has taken the lead in the State for enrollment of participants in the *No Worker Left Behind* initiative. Members congratulated him and all staff on the great work being done in behalf of Michigan citizens.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MIKE MORAN MOVED TO ADJOURN; SUPPORT BY DAVE BRANDT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne
Recording Secretary