MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

October 24, 2013

The Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board met Thursday, October 24, 2013 at the Michigan Works Office, 43630 Hayes Road, Clinton Township, MI with the following members present:
(✓ denotes private sector):

AT ROLL CALL:

Ken Austin ✓ Mike Kramer
✓ Lori Bianco Ken Lampar
   Deborah Bouts Mike Moran
   John Bozymowski Rick Niedieck
✓ Hannah Costello Valerie Nunn
✓ Patti Gendernalik William Peterson
✓ Carl Gervason Gary Polulak
✓ Virginia Gronley ✓ Charles Shaw
✓ Sarah Herhilan Erin Smith
✓ Peter Keating

ARRIVALS AFTER QUORUM CALLED:

✓ Ann Forster ✓ William Morelli
✓ Patricia Anger
   Dan Casey
✓ Carter Hitesman
   Maria Kokas
✓ John Bierbusse
   Rebecca Cohen

MEMBERS ABSENT:

✓ Dominic LaRosa
✓ Mary Matuja
✓ Mike Wiegand

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chris Reilly
Allan Eisenhauer
1. Call to Order
Chairman Keating called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call
Roll call was taken with 19 members present.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes
WILLIAM PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GARY POLULAK.

Mr. Lampar noted an incorrect meeting date. Minutes were amended.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Chairperson’s Report
Mr. Keating announced the resignation of Frank Blowers, which was accepted with regret.

5. Election of Officers
Mr. Peterson conducted elections by announcing that current officers are Keating, Gervason and Anger, who were contacted to determine their agreement to continue in their respective positions. All agreed.

Therefore, JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO RE-ELECT KEATING, GERVASON AND ANGER; SUPPORT BY GARY POLULAK.

GARY POLULAK MOVED TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS; SUPPORT BY CHARLES SHAW. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Peter Keating was unanimously elected chairman, Carl Gervason as vice chairman, and Patricia Anger as Secretary/Treasurer.

6. Committee Reports
A. Youth Advisory Committee
   1. Meeting of October 16, 2013
      a. Recommendation to Approve PY’13 Youth Program Contracts
         Ms. Bouts reported that the board previously approved negotiations for eleven contracts for younger youth programs. As a result, only three required modifications.

         Chippewa Valley School District: There was a $2,150 increase in budget to accommodate staffing costs bringing the contract total to $53,350.

         Macomb Intermediate School District: There was a $35,000 increase in budget to accommodate anticipated health care costs of staff bringing the total to $459,752.

         Warren Woods Public Schools: An increase of $4,000 was made to the budget to accommodate rising health care costs bringing the contract total to $62,581.

         The total requests came to $2,101,399, staff recommended $1,572,949, and final negotiation costs totaled $1,614,099.

         Two contracts were negotiated with no changes to serve the older youth population. Blue Water Center for Independent Living will serve 30 participants for a total of $77,775. Employment & Training Designs will expand their services to include the Mt. Clemens center and will serve 105 youth at a cost of $296,400.
CARL GERVAISON MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY’13 YOUTH PROGRAM CONTRACTS AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY CHARLES SHAW. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Informational
   i. WIA & Foster Care Summer Youth Program Highlights
   Programs offered this summer for both WIA and foster care youth involved career exploration activities on site in the schools, while other programs increased community placement by expanding business partnerships. Students at school sites were exposed to culinary arts, landscaping, auto technician, veterinary technician, custodial training, building maintenance, etc. Some of the local businesses who participated included TJ Maxx, Walgreens, CVS, Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, Fern Hill Golf Club, Jay Golf Customer Apparel, and Marwood Manor.

   WIA enrollments reached 298, which is 84.7% of the anticipated goal of 352. Wages totaled $253,050.40. The goal to enroll 45 foster care youth was attained with gross wages of $37,131.36.

   ii. Current Program Activity
   Contracts are designed to service 923 young people in youth continuum programs. To provide better services to older youth, counselors have been placed in the Michigan Works Service Centers because their participation was not strong when required to enroll through schools. Many have not had positive school experiences and this attempt to reach young people appears to be more successful. In St. Clair County there are opportunities for on-line learning along with classroom training. St. Clair County Community College did not wish to continue with the program this year.

   (Morelli arrived)

   iii. Success Stories
   A successful placement for a young woman who was assisted with post-secondary education at Macomb Community College for an Associates degree in early childhood education resulted in attaining employment as a teacher assistant with a local preschool in Roseville. The second story involves a young man who was very reluctant to get involved with the program but, with help from counselors, found a new attitude and a new employment position as a stock clerk with the Grace Centers of Hope Thrift Store.

B. Education & Adult Programs Committee
1. Meeting of October 17, 2013
a. Recommendation to Modify PATH Refugee Plan
   Mr. Bozymowski reported that the Refugee program is part of and mirrors the regular PATH program assisting refugees in attaining economic self-sufficiency. In November 2012 Michigan Works agencies were charged with providing case management and job search/job placement services to refugees referred through the Department of Human Services. DHS provides additional refugee employment support services to those who receive TANF cash assistance through a separate contract awarded to Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. Each group maintains separate responsibilities as they work closely together to ensure customer needs are met. While $384,000 for this initiative is available statewide, the initial local allocation was $171,784. Staff was recently notified of an increase of funds where the State has awarded the board another $134,207 bringing the total available to $305,991. These funds will enhance services by assisting refugees with job development and placement.

   WILLIAM MORELLI MOVED TO MODIFY THE FY’14 PATH REFUGEE PLAN AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY PATTI GENDERNALIK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

   (Forster arrived)
b. Informational

i. Update on PATH Program
A three-year comparison of the PATH program shows that there has been a 25% decline in serving PATH customers in this time frame. The numbers have not changed significantly though due to the addition of refugees being served. The 21-day applicant eligibility period has had a huge impact in reducing the numbers of regular PATH customers who opt to find employment rather than participate in the program.

ii. Update on Prisoner Re-entry Bid Proposals
Requests for Proposals were released by the Department of Corrections in the spring. The DOC required additional time to review responses and asked all fiscal agents to extend their contracts until the end of the year. The board complied and submitted a quarterly budget based on past experience with previous budgets.

The Department of Corrections has again contacted staff to request reconsideration of a reduction in the budget. This reduction impacts the Macomb program by 32% and the Thumb Area program by 30%. Staff agreed to operate under the terms but are very concerned with the reduction of services required to meet the request. Housing costs will be drastically reduced. The State needs to lower the number of referrals to keep the program viable.

The modified two-year budget for the Thumb Area has been reduced from $1,098,271 to $764,609; the Macomb two-year budget is reduced from $2,644,477 to $1,796,445.

iii. Update on Senior Community Service Employment Program
The Senior Community Service Employment Program assists economically disadvantaged individuals ages 55 and older by paying minimum wage for employment positions with community-based host agencies where they learn or upgrade skills. Individuals work a total of 19 hours per week. This year there are 70 slots available and combined with those whose 48-month time limits have not expired, allow for 78 currently enrolled in the program. The board serves this population within Macomb, St. Clair, Monroe and Oakland counties. Ours is the only Michigan Works Agency in the State to operate the program; the remaining programs are operated through the Area Agency of Aging. Customers work an average of 22 months. At this time there are four customers enrolled who are 76 years old and another four over 81 years old. The board has agreements with 120 host agencies which include sites such as food banks, senior complexes, governmental offices, etc. There are 28 active host agencies at this time. Customers rotate employment approximately every six months with the ultimate goal of employment.

iv. Update on Employment Service (ES) Program
Graphs reflected the number of participants registering with the Pure Talent Connect system. The figures are slowly declining and returning to 2002 levels due to improvement of economic conditions.

v. Update on Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program
Special re-employment services to recipients of Tier I and Tier II Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits is mandated and must include orientation of available services, assessment of job readiness, and information regarding the local labor market. All EUC claimants were notified and the agency is provided $76 per customer. The program was extended through calendar year 2013 with a few changes due to the federal sequestration. In March, claimants were notified of a 10.7% benefit reduction. In September, claimants were notified of additional cuts. The Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) resolution center in the VerKuilen Building is beginning to see a decline in customers.

vi. Update on Skilled Trades Training Fund
In the face of a growing shortage of skilled workers in Michigan, and in order to assist the business community, the Governor recommended and the State Legislature supported the creation of the Skilled Trades Training Fund for FY’14 (October through September). There is a total of $10 million available statewide. The program is intended to fill in the gaps not covered by similar federal programs by providing
short-term training to workers through classroom training, on-the-job training, customized training, incumbent worker training, or through USDOL registered apprenticeships. Training must be designed to fill a documented need experienced by an eligible business and result with full-time employment for the trainee(s).

Employers must be actively involved in the training and commit to hire successful completers. They are required to pay wages that are equal to or greater than the current regional occupational wages for the job title, and must enter into a training agreement with the local Michigan Works agency. The Pure Michigan Talent Connect system is required to post job orders. Outcomes and success of the program must be shared with the Michigan Works Agency and the State’s Workforce Development Agency. It is anticipated that the program will create 3,000 training opportunities.

Applications are submitted on-line. Staff act as researchers to assure there are no other resources for funding an applicant’s training program. Individual applicant approvals will be determined within 3 working days of submission and funding will be delivered to the MWA within 15 working days.

Staff has reached out to local employers informing them of the availability of state funds to support training both new and incumbent workers. Companies who have expressed interest include Key Safety Systems, Grace Engineering, Romeo Rim, Chassix, CBS Boring, Avon Gear and Kuhnhenn Brewery. One proposal to the State from Key Safety Systems was submitted and rejected. Staff is working to revise the proposal to learn how to advise future companies with their submissions.

Mr. Keating took this opportunity to introduce new member, Ann Forster, who was appointed to the board by the Chairman of the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners representing the private sector. Ms. Forster is Vice President of Employee Services for SEMCO Energy in Port Huron. Members welcomed her.

7. Executive Director’s Report
Mr. Bierbusse announced that the previous submission of a federal proposal in the Make It In America Challenge Grant for “Building Capacity and Capability in the Bio-Based Materials Manufacturing Sector” was awarded. This award is one of ten (10) nationwide. The proposal was a joint effort between the Board, the Center for Automotive Research, the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, and the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences and targets a 22-county region in southeast Michigan. The primary goal is to build programs in the bio-tech materials field to replace petroleum-based products. The award totals $1,071,800 of which $950,000 is targeted for training at Macomb Community College.

a. WIN Presentation
Mr. Bierbusse introduced Rebecca Cohen of the Workforce Intelligence Network, who delivered a 30-minute presentation explaining the role of WIN and delivering comprehensive information regarding the collection of current real-time labor market information. This data will be very useful for long-term project planning and provides pertinent information for training institutions. It will help connect employers with training providers. Fields being studied include information technology, manufacturing and health care. There currently exists a pilot program based in Detroit funded through a one-year Kellogg grant for the retail and hospitality sector. Members were encouraged to follow the progress being made by WIN through their website: www.win-semich.org.

8. Other Business
Mr. Lampar announced a 30th anniversary celebration at Macomb Literacy Partners on Thursday, October 31st. There will be an open house from 10am to noon. A blood drive is also being conducted from 11am to 4pm. Members were invited.

9. Hearing of the Public
There was no hearing of the public
10. **Scheduling of Next Meeting**
   The next general meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, December 5, 2013 at the Partridge Creek Banquet Center in Clinton Township. Members will be notified.

11. **Adjournment**
   WILLIAM MORELLI MOVED TO ADJOURN; SUPPORT BY CARL GERVASON. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

   Respectfully submitted,
   
   Laura Carne
   Recording Secretary