

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

February 22, 2007

The Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board met Thursday, February 22, 2007 at the Michigan Works Clinton Township Atrium Office, 43630 Hayes, Clinton Township, Michigan with the following members present (✓ denotes private sector):

AT ROLL CALL:

Lillian Adams	✓ Mike Kramer
Ken Austin	✓ Dominic LaRosa
✓ Del Becker	✓ Mary Matuja
✓ Frank Blowers	Mike Moran
John Bozymowski	✓ William Morelli
✓ John Daoud	Philip Papes
✓ Carl Gervason	Gary Polulak
✓ Peter Keating	✓ Paul Reiz
George Kovtun	Jennie Tunnell

ARRIVALS AFTER QUORUM CALLED:

✓ Dawn Drozd

MEMBERS ABSENT:

✓ Patricia Anger	Angelo Nicholas
✓ Ron Chriss	✓ Roland Pesek
Nancy Falcone	William Peterson
✓ Lester Gilbert	✓ Keith Pohl
✓ Mary Gibert	✓ Rick Regan
✓ Ed Kubes	✓ Charles Shaw
Vickie Ledsworth	✓ Carol Thurber
✓ Charles Michel	✓ Steven Willis

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Bierbusse	Kathy Jordon
Marsha Prose	Deb Porter
Doreen MacDonald	Michelle Glen
Brenda Etheridge	Yves Hamel
Tami Russo	

1. Call to Order

Secretary Blowers called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and informed the membership that Chairman Regan was unavailable due to health reasons.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken with 18 members present (10 private sector)

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

DEL BECKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2007 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED. Matuja abstained.

4. Chairperson's Report

Mr. Blowers commented on the regional economic forecast delivered on February 20th by Dr. James Jacobs of Macomb Community College and how it relates to the mission of the Workforce Development Board. For those wishing to remain in touch with Dr. Jacobs, his email address is jacobsj@macomb.edu.

(Drozd arrived)

5. Committee Reports

A. Education & Adult Programs Committee

1. Meeting of February 15, 2007

a. Recommendation to Approve BRAC Contract Service Provider

Ms. Tunnell reported that the board initially received a \$125,000 grant last June to address the concerns regarding the Army Garrison closure at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The plan indicated hiring a consultant firm to obtain information on individual needs and the effect on the local economy. Approximately 270 civilian employees will be affected; it was reported that only 29 people attended an orientation. It is anticipated that a full-time consultant will be able to obtain better results. Therefore, a request for proposal was written to secure consultant services to perform an environmental scan assessing the impact of current and future dislocation events in the region; to assess the impact of the closure; to survey needs of displaced individuals; and to develop goals, objectives and strategies to transition workers into training or employment. The RFP was released at the end of December to 25 potential proposers resulting with two (2) responses. Economic Modeling Specialist, Inc of Moscow, Idaho submitted an excellent proposal indicating their familiarity with the process having worked with other closures but the committee felt the distance was too great. The second proposal came from Public Policy Associates of Lansing, Michigan and was also excellent. The committee felt their familiarity with Michigan an asset along with their ability to assist on the impact of the auto industry. This initiative is on a very fast track with the scan due date of May 15th.

JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO PUBLIC POLICY ASSOCIATES OF LANSING MICHIGAN AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Recommendation to Approve FY'07 Work First - Reed Act Plan

Ms. Tunnell reported receipt of \$122,909 of Reed Act carry-in funds from the 2005 allocation. These dollars will be incorporated into the FY'07 plan for direct services to support staff costs of contractors.

MARY MATUJA MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY'07 WORK FIRST - REED ACT PLAN AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Informational Items

i. Plant Closures

Ms. Tunnel reported closures of two businesses. TI Automotive in Chesterfield Township notified the State of a mid-March closure. The company performs tooling and machine repair. There are 22 employees affected and all are highly skilled machine and electrical control panel builders. Outplacement services are being conducted by Outplacement Projects, Inc. A worker orientation was held in early February with 16 attending.

Collins & Aikman is closing a facility in Sterling Heights in March affecting 350 hourly and 50 salaried employees. They anticipate laying off the first 150 employees at the end of March with remaining employees leaving at the end of June or early July. The company is represented by UAW Local 155 and their primary customer is DaimlerChrysler. A worker orientation will be held in mid-March.

ii. Senior Community Service Employment Program Update

This program provides training and employment opportunities to economically disadvantaged individuals age 55 or older with priority going to those age 60 or beyond. The emphasis is to transition those participants into unsubsidized employment.

Members reviewed a handout reflecting the levels of participants both projected and enrolled in the Senior Community program. Of the 76 projected participants, to date 99 slots have been filled with 21 exiting the program. The placement goal is 24% with actual data showing placement has reached 6.5%. This number is expected to increase.

iii. Update of Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (MPRI)

The Macomb County program became operational in October, 2005 which has allowed staff to measure the effectiveness of the program. Of the 212 participants, Mr. Bierbusse noted that 17% have been returned to the prison system. Services provided include housing; clothing; bus passes; mental health services; mentoring; and workforce development assistance.

The St. Clair County initiative began October, 2006. Minimal information is available at this time. However, 17 parolees have applied for Department of Human Services assistance; 5 parolees have been placed in housing; 14 are working with an employment specialist; 6 are active in training; and 3 have obtained full-time employment.

The Department of Corrections has requested that our organization provide services to prisoners in the Thumb Area of the state and will use the St. Clair County initiative as a model. Additional resources will be added to the program to include these new participants.

iv. Career Advancement Accounts

Ms. Tunnell reported on the Career Advancement Account demonstration project which was designed to provide training to advance individuals, employers and the state's economic development efforts. The federal government has awarded Michigan \$1.5 million which must be matched by state funds. We are one of nine areas within the state selected to host the program.

The program allows \$3,000 to individuals seeking employment and training activities but if awarded, the individual foregoes any WIA funding. Mr. Bierbusse allowed that State MWA directors are uncomfortable with the program and concerned that WIA benefits may be overlooked by applicants who might otherwise benefit from using WIA funds which are able to cover training costs beyond the

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\$3,000 cap of the CAA program. The directors have asked the State to resubmit the proposal to Washington to redirect funding to incumbent workers. The proposal must be submitted by February 22nd. A March 1st start date is anticipated. Members will be kept updated on the progress of this initiative.

v. JET Program Update

The JET program is a redesign of the Work First program. Ms. Tunnell presented a newsletter prepared for staff which discusses training of all the various partners. The program is scheduled to begin March 19th.

B. Administrative Committee

1. Meeting of February 8, 2007

a. Recommendation to Modify PY'06 Senior Community Service Employment Program Budget

Ms. Matuja that an additional \$48,000 was requested for this program, but official notification of \$1,500 was received. Funds were incorporated into the budget and targeted to classroom training.

WILLIAM MORELLI MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'06 SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Recommendation to Modify FY'07 Work First - Reed Act Budget

Ms. Matuja reported that The board received Reed Act carry-in funds to be incorporated into the Work First budget. A total of \$122,909 in Reed Act dollars was added bringing the Work First budget to \$4,843,844. Of that, \$4,262,584 is directed to program costs. These additional Reed Act dollars were incorporated into the Work First Projects line item.

DOMINIC LaROSA MOVED TO MODIFY THE FY'07 WORK FIRST - REED ACT BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Recommendation to Approve Two Additional Staff Positions

As part of the responsibility as the center operator, and due to the opening of a new Michigan Works Service Center located at Martin Road and Van Dyke in Warren, a clerical/greeter receptionist position has become necessary. This new office will alleviate the heavy traffic flow at the Roseville center. Funds for this mandatory position are paid through program costs. All other staff positions at this new center will be provided through organizations that the board contracts with to provide customer services. This is a level 9 staff position with a salary range of \$26,307 to \$32,829.

DEL BECKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF A CLERICAL/GREETER RECEPTIONIST POSITION FOR THE NEW WARREN SITE AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The second is a part-time clerical position within the administration's Management Information Systems unit. There has been a significant increase in the number of enrollments in both the WIA and Work First programs, plus new customer tracking requirements have been created by the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiatives and the Senior Community Services Employment Program. The position will pay \$13.44 per hour and will not exceed 20 hours per week. The position will be posted internally but may be filled by a participant of the Senior Community Services Employment Program.

GEORGE KOVTUN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF A PART-TIME CLERICAL POSITION TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE MIS UNIT AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GARY POLULAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Executive Director's Report

During the Governor's State of the State address, the *No Worker Left Behind* initiative was announced which would provide an opportunity for training of dislocated workers as a three-year program allowing participants two years of training. Federal funds would be matched by \$40 million of state revenue and dedicated solely to training costs. Participants would be encouraged to seek training at community colleges, but private proprietary institutions would be allowed. The program would be channeled through the Michigan Works agencies throughout the State. Members will be kept updated.

Further, the Department of Transportation has begun a \$5 million training program for road construction workers and would like Michigan Works agencies to administer the program.

However, there is an executive order to reduce the State budget by \$186 million. The State House has approved, but the State Senate rejected. Mr. Bierbusse informed the board that State cuts will be forthcoming, but until the budget is announced, the board cannot take any appropriate action at this time.

Due to the amount of local plant closures, staff has petitioned the State for additional dislocated worker funds. More than 1100 jobs have been lost. According to Dr. Jacobs economic forecast, the region may expect an 8% unemployment rate soon.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Hearing of the Public

There were no comments from the public.

9. Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next general meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 22, 2007 at the Michigan Works Atrium Office in Clinton Township. Members will be notified.

10. Adjournment

DOMINIC LaROSA MOVED TO ADJOURN; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne
Recording Secretary