

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

February 28, 2008

The Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board met Thursday, February 28, 2008 at the Michigan Works Clinton Township Atrium Office, 43630 Hayes Rd, Clinton Township, Michigan with the following members present (✓ denotes private sector):

AT ROLL CALL:

Lillian Adams	Mike Moran
Ken Austin	✓ William Morelli
✓ Del Becker	✓ Scott Orts
John Bozymowski	Philip Papes
✓ Patti Gendernalik	✓ Rick Regan
✓ Lester Gilbert	✓ Paul Reiz
✓ Ed Kubes	✓ Charles Shaw
Darlene LaBelle	Jennie Tunnell
✓ Mary Matuja	

ARRIVALS AFTER QUORUM CALLED:

✓ John Daoud	Nancy Falcone
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MEMBERS ABSENT:

✓ Patricia Anger	✓ Dominic LaRosa
✓ Frank Blowers	Vickie Ledsworth
✓ David Brandt	✓ Charles Michel
✓ Carl Gervason	Angelo Nicholas
✓ Mary Gilbert	William Peterson
✓ Peter Keating	Gary Polulak
George Kovtun	✓ Carol Thurber
✓ Peter Keating	

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Bierbusse	Kathy Jordon
Marsha Prose	Diane Weiss
Doreen MacDonald	Brenda Etheridge

1. Call to Order

Chairman Regan called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken with 17 members present (10 private sector).

4. Chairperson's Report

Chairman Regan welcomed two new members to the board. Darlene LaBelle, representing a community-based organization, is director of the Macomb County Library and is replacing Ron Reed. Patti Gendernalik, representing the private sector, is a sales manager for Kelly Services in Sterling Heights. She replaces Ron Chriss.

5. Committee Reports

A. Michigan Works Service Centers Committee

1. Meeting of February 19, 2008

b. Informational Items

i. Update on Warren Service Center

The Warren Service Center, located on Van Dyke across from Macomb Community College's M-TEC Center, officially opened for business February 4th. This center should help alleviate the high traffic volume at the Roseville center. An open house will be held in the Spring and members will be invited.

(Daoud and Falcone arrived).

ii. Customer Flow for 2007

Ms. Tunnell reported on the customer flow for the centers during 2007. She reported traffic levels at 27% in Clinton Township; 16% in Mt. Clemens; 19% in Port Huron; and 38% at the Roseville site. Approximately 45,000 people received services in the past year.

iii. Business Solutions Professional Training

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, in conjunction with Michigan State University, is sponsoring a *Business Solutions Professional Certification Program* which offers participants an opportunity to learn the business solutions process (BSP). The BSP is a business - focused demand-driven approach to assist in retaining current workers, create jobs, operate competitively in the global market, and to attract new business. Ms. Tunnell reported that two agency staff are participating in the program.

a. Recommendation to Approve 2008 Michigan Works Systems Plan

Ms. Tunnell presented the updated 2008 Michigan Works Systems Plan synopsis which provides the State with assurances regarding accounting, grievance procedures, procurement, veterans' rights to employment services, monitoring, identification of the one-stop operator, and the local strategic plan.

DEL BECKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2008 MICHIGAN WORKS SYSTEMS PLAN AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

WILLIAM MORELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2008 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY ED KUBES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **Committee Reports** - *Continued*

B. Education & Adult Programs Committee

1. Meeting of February 21, 2008

a. Recommendation to Modify PY'07 Dislocated Worker Plan

Ms. Tunnell reported that previously staff petitioned for additional dislocated worker funds but did not expect to receive due to federal recissions of State dollars. However, the petition was successful and an additional \$296,000 was received and incorporated into the PY'07 plan. None of these funds will be used for administration; all will be incorporated into the program allowing for training of an additional 94 individuals.

LESTER GILBERT MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'07 DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM PLAN AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Recommendation to Modify FY'08 JET Plan

Ms. Tunnell reported that the Department of Human Services was appropriated general fund/general purpose monies for the 2008 fiscal year which is specifically earmarked for expansion of the JET program. Through an interagency agreement, the DHS has transferred \$6,848,100 to the Department of Labor & Economic Growth for local distribution. The Macomb/St Clair WDB will receive \$359,770 bringing the GF/GP portion total to \$1,245,298. The grand total for the entire JET budget is now \$5,191,559.

MARY MATUJA MOVED TO MODIFY THE FY'08 JET PROGRAM PLAN AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY DEL BECKER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Recommendation to Approve TANF Supportive Services Plan

Since Michigan Works agencies and local Department of Human Services are allowed to establish agreements providing additional TANF funds for employment-related services, the Macomb County DHS has agreed to transfer \$25,000 of support service funds to the Macomb/St Clair WDB.

These funds will be primarily used to provide child care services to those eligible dependents who participate in JET programs at the Macomb County Michigan Works service centers. Funds may also be used for auto-related services.

MARY MATUJA MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY'08 JET PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES PLAN AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY DEL BECKER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Informational Items

i. Plant Closures

Ms. Tunnell announced mass layoffs at Faurecia - at both the Merrill Road location and the Sims Road location in Sterling Heights. Worker orientations have been scheduled for the end of February and early March. Staff was also notified by WARN that Chrysler Corporation will suspend certain operations in mid-March affecting 1,137 union hourly employees and 9 union salary employees. Locals affected are 1700, 412, and 889. Staff made presentation to local employees explaining available Michigan Works services and trade program services. Meetings with employees are being coordinated with individual plant location.

ii. Request for Additional Dislocated Worker Funds

With the success of the previous request, Ms. Tunnell reported that staff has asked the State for another \$384,000 in dislocated worker funds to provide services for those who are affected by the latest round of closures and layoffs.

iii. Report on Ford Motor Company Partnership

Ms. Tunnell informed members of a partnership between Ford Motor Company and the State of Michigan to conduct throughout the State in-plant *Job Connection* hiring events for those affected by the recent employee buyouts. Efforts are designed to provide current hourly employees with information regarding job opportunities existing outside of Ford, as well as providing the necessary resources for job search techniques. Local plants that have already conducted events include the Romeo Engine plant and the Van Dyke Transmission plant. Upcoming events are scheduled for the Utica Plant and Sterling Axle Plant. Staff has been available to present Michigan Works services while also working with other Michigan Works Agencies. A cross-section of companies who may be able to use skilled employees also attend the events

C. Administrative Committee

1. Meeting of February 14, 2008

a. Recommendation to Modify PY'07 WIA Dislocated Worker Program Budget

Mr. Shaw reported that staff previously requested and received additional \$296,000 to incorporate into the budget bringing the total to \$4,500,502. Funds are directed to classroom training and support of the Michigan Works service centers.

DEL BECKER MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'07 WIA DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY WILLIAM MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Recommendation to Modify FY'08 JET Program Budget

The JET program, which now replaces the Work First program, has been adjusted to reflect receipt of \$359,770 of State general fund/general purpose dollars. The majority of funds will be used for classroom training and Work First projects with a small portion dedicated to administrative costs. The total budget is now \$4,703,706.

LESTER GILBERT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY'08 JOBS, EDUCATION & TRAINING (JET) PROGRAM BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY LIL ADAMS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Recommendation to Approve TANF Supportive Services Budget

Each year the Department of Labor & Economic Growth solicits the Department of Human Services in an attempt to elicit support services funds. Macomb County has traditionally contributed and once again will provide the board with an additional \$25,000. The budget reflects that \$13,000 will be dedicated to the babysitting services provided at the Macomb County service centers. The remaining \$12,000 will be dedicated to auto-related expenses for car repair which is capped at \$650, insurance, plates, etc.

MARY MATUJA MOVED TO APPROVE THE TANF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY DEL BECKER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Informational Items

i. Trade Adjustment Assistance Expenditure Report

Since the State has changed policy for distribution of TAA funds, there will no longer be granted an annual allocation. Funds must now be requested as needed and the organization will be reimbursed for actual expenditures, eliminating the need for monthly budget modifications. Staff will continue to present expenditure reports. The State may not have enough resources in the future to cover local costs unless they petition the federal government.

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While comparing the year-to-date expenditures of 2007 to 2008, Mr. Shaw noted that there is a large deviation in spending between the two years, i.e., \$337,875 to \$956,587.

ii. WIA PY'07 Second Quarter Performance Report

The 17 WIA performance standards for the second quarter were reviewed. It was determined that ten were exceeded, six were met and the older youth credential rate failed possibly due to the transient nature of the older youth. Staff will continue to work to improve this measure.

6. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Bierbusse reported that the letter to the State which the board approved last month to voice their concern regarding inability to create local specific parameters for eligibility priority for the *No Worker Left Behind* initiative was not sent when the board unexpectedly received additional dislocated worker funds. Hopefully, additional dollars will continue to be allocated as the legislature considers some type of funding to address the need to reskill the workforce, perhaps through National Emergency Grant funds.

The State is attempting to make a case at the federal level that Michigan is experiencing a recession due to the high unemployment rate. Reported plant closures will assist in building a case for additional resources.

7. Other Business

Lil Adams reported a diversification program that interested members may contact the Sterling Heights Area Chamber to learn more.

Del Becker encouraged members to attend *Michigan's Fight for Freedom: The Civil War Era* event sponsored by Macomb Community College from February 27th through May 4th.

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 27, 2008 at the Michigan Works Atrium Office in Clinton Township, Michigan. Members will be notified.

10. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne
Recording Secretary