

**MINUTES OF THE  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

January 24, 2008

The Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board met Thursday, January 24, 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  
√ Ken Austin  
√Del Becker  
√Frank Blowers  
John Bozymowski  
√Dave Brandt  
√John Daoud  
√Lester Gilbert

√Peter Keating  
George Kovtun  
√Dominic LaRosa  
Vickie Ledsworth  
√Mary Matuja  
William Peterson  
√Rick Regan  
√Paul Reiz  
Jennie Tunnell

**ARRIVALS AFTER QUORUM CALLED:**

N/A

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

√Patricia Anger  
√Dawn Drozd  
Nancy Falcone  
√Mary Gilbert  
√Carl Gervason  
√Michael Kramer  
√Ed Kubes  
√Charles Michel

Mike Moran  
√William Morelli  
Angelo Nicholas  
√Scott Orts  
Philip Papes  
Gary Poulak  
√Charles Shaw  
√Carol Thurber

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

John Bierbusse  
Marsha Prose  
Brenda Etheridge  
Doreen MacDonald

Kathy Jordan  
Linda McLatcher  
Tammy Russo

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Regan called the meeting to order at 3:14 PM.

2. **Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with 17 members present (12 private sector).

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

**JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2007 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY DEL BECKER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **Chairperson's Report**

Chairman Regan welcomed the board and visitors to today's meeting.

5. **Committee Reports**

**A. Education & Adult Programs Committee**

1. Meeting of January 17, 2008

**a. Recommendation to Modify PY'07 Dislocated Worker *No Worker Left Behind* Plan**

Mr. Kovtun reported that this modification transfers \$1,937,000 from the *No Worker Left Behind*-Dislocated Worker program into the *No Worker Left Behind*-Adult Program which is an allowable transfer under the legislation. This transfer of funds is necessary due to the increase in participants being made eligible within the Adult program.

**JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'07 DISLOCATED WORKER *NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND* PROGRAM PLAN AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY PETER KEATING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Recommendation to Modify PY'07 Adult Program *No Worker Left Behind* Plan**

With the transfer of \$1,937,000 as noted above, this plan incorporates the transfer into the *No Worker Left Behind*-Adult Program.

**PETER KEATING MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY'07 *NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND* PLAN AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY LILLIAN ADAMS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**c. Informational Items**

**i. Plant Closures**

Mr. Kovtun announced plant closures/mass layoffs for Transpec Worldwide in Sterling Heights, Chrysler Corporation in Sterling Heights, Detroit Children's Home of Detroit in Warren, TJ Maxx located in Warren and Android Industries in Sterling Heights.

It was also announced that WARN notices have recently been received for Faurecia Automotive Seating in Sterling Heights (2 locations) and Shelby Modules of Shelby Township. Rapid Response meetings are in the process of being conducted and information on these closures/mass layoffs will be forthcoming.

**ii. Request for Additional Dislocated Worker Funds**

Mr. Kovtun announced that a State Adjustment Grant (SAG) request has been submitted to the State of Michigan-Department of Labor & Economic Growth in the amount of \$296,000. He further explained that the likelihood of this grant being funded was still in question due to a recent rescission of \$5 million dollars which is due from the State of Michigan to the U.S. Department of Labor. This rescission was part of the recently approved Federal Budget.

**iii. JET Participant Characteristics**

Mr. Kovtun presented a chart of a 7 year comparison of characteristics of Macomb and St. Clair County JET participants for the years ending September, 2000 vs September, 2007. He explained that this report indicates an increase in the number of male participants in the program, however, the majority of participants are still women. He also noted that the average age of participants, in both counties, has increased over the last 7 years and that in both counties, JET participants were found to be more educated than participants 7 years ago.

**iv. Trade Adjustment Assistance Enrollment Report**

Mr. Kovtun presented the Board with an informational fact sheet on the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program. He noted that this is the same informational fact sheet which is provided to individual employees at the time of certification.

Also presented was a compilation report of Trade Certifications between July 2005 and December 2007 which indicates that 3,433 employees were affected and certified eligible under this program. Of that total, 1,308 were served by this local Michigan Works office with 344 of those individuals taking advance of vocational re-training services.

**B. Administrative Committee**

1. Meeting of January 10, 2008

**a. Recommendation to modify PY'07 WIA Dislocated Worker *No Worker Left Behind* Program Budget**

Mr. Peterson reported that due to the demand of the *No Worker Left Behind* initiative, it is recommended that a transfer of \$1,587,000 be made from the Dislocated Worker Program Budget into the Adult Program where the need has increased dramatically. Transfers of up to 30% are allowed between programs and additional funds will be requested to supplement the dislocated worker program. This transfer revised the dislocated worker budget to \$4,204,502.

**WILLIAM PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY'07 NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND DISLOCATED WORKER BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY PETER KEATING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Recommendation to Modify PY'07 WIA Adult Worker *No Worker Left Behind* Budget**

Mr. Peterson explained that due to the previous action, the adult program budget will increase from \$3,230,154 to \$4,817,154.

**WILLIAM PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY'07 WIA ADULT - NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**c. Recommendation to Modify PY'08 JET**

Mr. Peterson noted that the JET program, which now replaces the Work First program, has been adjusted to reflect actual versus estimated carry in of WIA dollars. Therefore, the budget increased by \$25,702 in the WIA category with funds targeted at Work First projects.

**WILLIAM PETERSON MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'08 JOBS, EDUCATION & TRAINING (JET) PROGRAM BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT FRANK BLOWERS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**d. Informational Items**

**i. Trade Adjustment Assistant First Quarter Expenditure Report**

Mr. Peterson noted that since the State has changed the policy for distribution of TAA funds, there will no longer be granted an initial allocation for the year. 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 quarterly expenditure reports. It was also noted that there is a concern that if other Michigan Works organizations are experiencing such large training demands in this program, that the State may not have enough resources in the future to cover local costs unless they petition the Federal government.

**ii. Review of Annual Accounts of Funding Sources**

Mr. Peterson stated that members of the Administrative Committee reviewed a handout reflecting funding sources since 2002 to current noting that in 2002 there were just under \$14 million available to service customers; to date the agency is operating with \$23.5 million and it was predicted that the budget will be near \$26 million by the end of the program year.

**6. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Bierbusse circulated a report outlining the Classroom Training Enrollment Goals by each Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works Service Center. He noted that these goals were established prior to the *No Worker Left Behind* Program. He further noted, as indicated on the report, that enrollments have already exceeded the goals.

Due to this increase in enrollment and the amount of funds received, Mr. Bierbusse, alerted the Board that it was necessary to temporarily delay enrollment into vocational training programs at this time. He also stated that the State requires 1<sup>st</sup> in 1<sup>st</sup> to be served approach. He also noted that there are 1,150 applicants, to the program, still in the information/eligibility process and that a process to deal with this backlog is currently being outlined for staff to follow. This temporary delay in enrollment does not include enrollments into the Trade or Youth programs.

Mr. Bierbusse went on to explain that in January, Congress voted to rescind \$5 million in WIA funding to the State of Michigan. The State has yet to announce our share of that rescission.

Mr. Petersen voiced concern about the *No Worker Left Behind* Program eligibility criteria, specifically, the ability to prioritize working with those who are employed vs. those not employed.

Mr. Bierbusse explained the eligibility criteria for *the No Worker Left Behind* program and stated that the State mandated we could not set parameters for prioritizing—if the customer met the guidelines they were eligible. He referenced that in August, this Board changed our eligibility criteria, consistent with the *No Worker Left Behind* rules, so that we would be eligible for additional funds if and when they become available.

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Mr. Peterson felt that we should not be funding those NOT in need. Mr. Bierbusse concurred referencing that the program parameters which now allow us to fund an individual receiving a Masters Degree.

Discussion continued regarding the eligibility of this program and who to enroll and who not to enroll.

**LILLIAN ADAMS MOVED TO SEND A LETTER OF COMPLAINT TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ON THE *NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND* PROGRAM OUTLING A DISAGREEMENT WITH STATE POLICY AS TO NOT BEING ABLE TO SET SPECIFIC PARAMETERS/ PRIORITY FOR ELIGIBILITY ; SUPPORT BY PETER KEATING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Bierbusse stated that he would be alerting the State as to our temporary delay in enrollment into vocational training programs. It was also suggested that local offices, including the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, be alerted to this temporary delay.

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8. Hearing of the Public**

None

**9. Scheduling of Next Meeting**

The next general meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Thursday, February 28, 2008 at the Michigan Works Atrium Office in Clinton Township, Michigan. Members will be notified.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. McLatcher  
Recording Secretary