

EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 19, 2007

I. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

George Kovtun
Gary Polulak
Jennie Tunnell
John Bozymowski

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Moran

OTHERS PRESENT

John Bierbusse
Marsha Prose
Linda McLatcher

Mr. Kovtun called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 15, 2007 EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES

JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2007 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GARY POLULAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

a. Recommendation to Modify PY'06 Dislocated Worker Plan

Legislation allows that up to 20% of funds can be transferred between the WIA adult and WIA dislocated worker programs. In order to better service additional economically disadvantaged adults, it was recommended that \$850,000 be moved into the adult program budget. Staff requested additional \$935,000 from the state and received verbal confirmation. However, Mr. Bierbusse reported that a recent executive order does not allow release of funding for any programs at this time. He noted further that DLEG is requesting a waiver from the Governor since dislocated worker dollars are federal, not state funds. He predicted that funds will be released before the end of the program year of June 30th.

JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'06 DISLOCATED WORKER PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JENNIE TUNNELL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Recommendation to Modify PY'06 Adult Plan

As a result of the previous action, \$850,000 was incorporated into the adult program plan.

GARY POLULAK MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'06 ADULT PROGRAM PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JOHN BOZYMOWSKI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Informational Items

i. Plant Closures

Members reviewed closures of eight businesses. Affected companies included Collins & Aikman in Port Huron; ITW Plastics of Shelby Township; Cadence Innovation of Clinton Township; DaimlerChrysler Corporation in Auburn Hills; VCST Power Training Components Inc in Chesterfield; Pine River Plastics in St. Clair; and Distel Tool & Machine Company in Warren. Ms. McLatcher reported that the City of Detroit has asked for assistance from our organization

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to service a large number of Macomb County residents who are effected by the Thyssenkrupp Budd closure in Detroit.

ii. BRAC Update

Staff met with the military stationed at Selfridge Air National Guard Base regarding impending closures. The latest closure date is estimated for September 2008 for the Army Garrison and 2009 for the 927th Air Force Wing. These dates remain flexible. Approximately 500 civilian and 800 military personnel will be affected.

A job fair is scheduled on the base for May 4th and 5th and pre-retirement planning seminars for June 4th and 5th. Consultants Public Policy Associates will continue to work on areas of environmental scans of the regional economy; impact of closures; needs of displaced individuals; and will develop goals, objectives and strategies to transition displaced worker into training or employment.

IV. TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (TAA)

a. Recommendation to Modify FY'07 Plan

The Trade Adjustment Assistance program serves those individuals who have lost their employment due to foreign competition. Certification is made by the U.S. Department of Labor.

An additional \$153,000 was incorporated into the plan along with final carry-in from the previous year.

After review and discussion, **JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO MODIFY THE FY'07 TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JENNIE TUNNELL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. MICHIGAN PRISONER RE-ENTRY INITIATIVE (MPRI)

a. Macomb County Report

The Macomb County program began in October, 2005. Of the 264 participants, Mr. Bierbusse noted that 17% have been returned to the prison system. Services provided include areas of housing; clothing; bus passes; mental health services; mentoring; and workforce development assistance.

b. St Clair County Report

The St. Clair County initiative began October, 2006. Of the 35 parolees eligible for the program, two have returned to prison (6%). As in the Macomb program, services provided include areas of housing; clothing; bus passes; mental health services; mentoring; and workforce development assistance.

c. Thumb Area Report

As previously reported at February's meeting, the Department of Corrections 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. Members reviewed the agreement between the St Clair County MPRI co-chairs and the Macomb/St. Clair WDB.

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Marsha Prose presented a handout of statistics as a subset of previously reported figures that provided an update of Job Link services provided to the MPRI program. Parolees are eligible for time limited food assistance through the Department of Human Services and can therefore take advantage of the funding through the Food Assistance Employment & Training program, which in the past was never used to full capacity. Of 32 enrolled, seven (7) have obtained employment and 19 are involved in job search activities.

VI. 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 121 slots have been filled with 33 exiting the program. The placement goal is 24% with actual data showing placement has reached 11.8%.

VII. CAREER ADVANCEMENT ACCOUNTS

Mr. Bierbusse discussed the Career Advancement Account demonstration project designed to provide training to advance individuals, employers and the state's economic development efforts. The federal government has awarded Michigan with \$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 provides \$3,000 to individuals seeking employment and training activities but if awarded, the individual foregoes any WIA funding. State MWA directors were 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 \$3,000 cap of the CAA program. The State submitted a proposal to Washington seeking to direct funding to incumbent workers. The proposal was rejected.

Since there is currently no available program, Mr. Bierbusse asked the State to consider using these funds for local auto workers who accepted buyouts from the auto companies. However, the State plans to resubmit for incumbent workers with the stipulation that participating companies contribute to a portion of training and allow employees to determine what type of training they wish to receive. Mr. Bierbusse predicts this proposal will also be rejected. Members will continue to be updated.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

The Michigan Works System Plan synopsis was presented. Each year the agency is required to submit a plan to the State providing assurances of operation. The plan visits areas of accounting; grievance procedures; procurement; Veterans' Rights; monitoring; identification of the one-stop operator; and the local strategic plan.

After review, **GARY POLULAK MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2007 MICHIGAN WORKS SYSTEM PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JENNIE TUNNELL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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Mr. Bozymowski suggested that staff contact the Macomb Intermediate School District to ascertain whether the board is eligible for inclusion of their discount for educational equipment purchases.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 17, 2007. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne
Recording Secretary