

EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 16, 2007

I. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

George Kovtun
John Bozymowski
Jennie Tunnell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Moran
Gary Polulak

OTHERS PRESENT

John Bierbusse
Linda McLatcher
Marsha Prose

Mr. Kovtun called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 21, 2007 EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES

JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2007 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY JENNIE TUNNELL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

a. Recommendation to Modify PY'07 Dislocated Worker Plan

Funds totaling \$320,020 were incorporated into the PY'06 dislocated worker plan. Carry-in includes \$265,000 with 7% dedicated to administration of the program. Total now available is \$6,017,978.

JENNIE TUNNELL MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'07 DISLOCATED WORKER PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JOHN BOZYMOWSKI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Informational Items

i. Plant Closures

Ms. McLatcher reported no plant closures at this time. However, members reviewed trade certifications for VCST Machine Products in Clinton Township; HG-DSS Technologies in Fair Haven; R-Tis-Tic Mold in St. Clair; and Hi-Craft Engineering in Fraser.

It was noted that the final company, Hi-Craft Engineering, was very uncooperative. In order to reach the 10 affected employees, ads were placed in the Macomb Daily and the Port Huron Times Herald announcing the trade certification and encouraging employees to visit a Michigan Works office.

ii. BRAC Update

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

As part of the process for the planning grant, consultants *Public Policy Associates* conducted an impact study of the region and results of questionnaires were reviewed.

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Of the 300 affected Army Garrison employees, 102 questionnaires were returned reporting that most had less than five years seniority and the majority plan to visit a Michigan Works office upon separation.

Of the 700 reservists of the 927th Air Refueling Wing, a total of 387 questionnaires were returned. Approximately 20% expect to retire and 25% plan to be relocated to Florida. Thirty-five percent (35%) indicated they intend to visit a Michigan Works office. A complete report will be presented by Public Policy Associates at the board's general meeting August 23rd.

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 \$266,432 was received and incorporated into the budget. Funds will be used for classroom training. The budget now totals \$1,639,707.

JENNIE TUNNELL 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 JOHN BOZYMOWSKI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. WORK FIRST/JET PROGRAM

a. Recommendation to Approve Remedial Basic Skills Upgrading Service Provider

A request for proposal was released in June seeking basic skills upgrading services for those Work First customers who wish to pursue vocational training. Services are targeted to those individuals who have reading and math skills below the 6th grade level, but no lower than 4th grade.

Leaps and Bounds Family Services in Warren was contacted prior and asked to develop a 3-month trial program to identify the number of potential customers requiring this type of services. As a result of the RFP solicitation, three responses were received for Macomb County and one for St. Clair County. An evaluation was performed by staff to determine cost, program design and history of the vendor. Staff recommended that L'Anse Creuse Public Schools be awarded a bid of \$44,830 in Macomb County with Leaps & Bounds Family Services to continue their program but with a cost reduction to \$23,000.

While Blue Water Center for Independent Living was the sole submission in St. Clair County, staff did not recommend funding due to the design structure of their program consisting of two (2) hours per week of classroom instruction and 6 to 8 hours per week at home. It was recommended that an RFP be re-released in November when responses may be more plentiful due to public schools being back in session.

After review and discussion, **JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE FULL FUNDING TO L'ANSE CREUSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ONE-THIRD FUNDING TO LEAPS AND BOUNDS WITH A RE-RELEASE OF THE RFP IN THE FALL FOR ST. CLAIR COUNTY AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THEIR APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JENNIE TUNNELL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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VI. NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND

a. Implementation Changes (Modification of WDB Policies)

Mr. Bierbusse presented an overview of the No Worker Left Behind initiative introduced by the Governor on August 1st. This initiative loosens eligibility requirements for those dislocated workers seeking retraining without allocating additional dollars designated for No Worker Left Behind. As the fund is depleted we will be requesting additional dollars from the state to support Macomb/St. Clair's obligations. Currently we find that most of the unemployed in our area do not fit the definition of Dislocated Worker but fit into the definition of Adult.

i. Eligibility for Training

Core elements of the new program will include up to two years of free tuition and fees for certificate or degree completion at any Michigan community college, college, university or other approved training program. Workers will be required to take a skills assessment test. Qualified individuals must pursue their degree or certificate in a high-demand occupation or emerging industry. The free tuition is a one-time offer and individuals will have three years to sign up effective August 1st, 2007.

Eligibility is for those who are currently unemployed or have received notice of termination or layoff, or have family income less than \$40,000. Participants must be at least 18 years old, must not have graduated from high school within the past two years, and must not be full-time college students.

Mr. Bierbusse noted that the State is expecting the board to provide more services without additional funding. However, if the board does not wish to participate, it will be eliminated from receiving any potential future funds. Since previous local priority was placed on low income individuals, members encouraged the director to continue to press the State to accept local decisions on services.

After much discussion, **JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO REVISE THE ELIGIBILITY FOR TRAINING POLICY AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JENNIE TUNNELL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ii. Demand Occupation List

The 2007 demand occupation list was reviewed. To be considered, an occupation must meet the growth and wage criteria in the Detroit MSA meaning the occupation must have at least 11% growth and 50 or more openings or have positive change with at least 100 openings in the metropolitan area; and have at least a mean hourly wage of \$12.50. The growth information is provided by the Annual Planning Information Report for 2007.

After review, **JENNIE TUNNELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2007 DEMAND OCCUPATION LIST AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JOHN BOZYMOWSKI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

iii. Individual Training Account (ITA) Cap

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Members reviewed policy changes to the current ITA policy which states that the board will provide \$8.75 per hour multiplied by the number of contract hours for approved training and will also cover costs of tuition, fees, books and supplies.

The recommended policy change will allow a maximum ITA amount of \$5,000 per year up to \$10,000 over a four-year period. It will cover the cost of tuition and fees only.

JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO REVISE THE INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNT (ITA) POLICY AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JENNIE TUNNELL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 20, 2007. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne
Recording Secretary