

**EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**October 16, 2008**

**I. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

George Kovtun  
Dave Brandt  
Debbie Bouts

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mike Moran  
Gary Polulak  
Jennie Tunnell

John  
Bozymowski

**OTHERS PRESENT**

John Bierbusse  
Linda McLatcher  
Marsha Prose

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

**II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DAVE BRANDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA)**

**a. Recommendation to Approve PY'08 National Emergency Grant**

The State of Michigan has received \$6.2 million for a national emergency grant; the local allocation is \$757,793. This is a one-time allocation to be spent over a three-year period. Mr. Bierbusse predicted that the funds would be expended within two years. The plan is targeted toward those who have been displaced by the auto industry and will operate under the same terms as the *No Worker Left Behind* initiative; i.e., participants will have access up to \$10,000 for training to be divided in a two-year period, no more than \$5,000 per year. It is projected that enrollment will reach 190 participants. All services except training will be provided at the Michigan Works Service Centers.

After review and discussion, **DAVE BRANDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY'08 NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Informational Items**

**i. Plant Closures**

RCO Engineering in Roseville received cancellation of a number of programs from one of their primary customers resulting in a permanent layoff of 38 employees. No formal worker orientation has been scheduled.

A worker orientation is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> to address the closing of International Paper in Warren affecting 82 union employees.

Ms. McLatcher previously reported that UFP Technologies - SIMCO Automotive is closing its facility in Macomb Township. It has since been learned that the facility is moving its operation to a newly acquired facility in Grand Rapids. Approximately 50 employees are affected; 16 have agreed to relocate. A worker orientation is scheduled for November.

Three companies have been trade certified. Comau Inc in Warren became certified September 15<sup>th</sup> with an impact date of May 19, 2007. The certification will expire September 15, 2010. A trade information meeting was held October 3<sup>rd</sup> with 7 out of the 27 affected attending. Follow-up letters were mailed to the remaining 20 employees reminding them of the importance and timeliness of signing the appropriate trade paperwork. Lapeer Metal Stamping Companies, Inc in Mt. Clemens was certified September 22<sup>nd</sup> with an impact date of September 5, 2007. Many employees were transferred to the company location in Dearborn; however, 12 received permanent layoff notices. Those individuals were invited to attend a trade orientation October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Magna Technologies of America of Shelby Township became certified September 11<sup>th</sup> with an impact date of June 24, 2007. A trade orientation is scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup> for the 29 affected employees.

Mr. Bierbusse reported that a continuing resolution affecting the trade program has been approved until March, 2009. The report was received and filed.

#### **IV. JOBS, EDUCATION & TRAINING (JET PLUS)**

- a. Campus-Centered Model**
- b. Community Outreach Model**

Ms. Prose presented a synopsis of the new pilot program "Jobs, Education & Training (JET) PLUS. There is approximately \$50 million available to operate six (6) pilot sites. The selected sites are Berrien, Kent, Genesee, Macomb, Saginaw and Wayne counties where 5,000 cash welfare recipients will be allowed to access vocational training which should lead to career employment and self-sufficiency. The program design consists of two models: community outreach for individuals who lack a high school diploma or GED; and the campus-centered model for those who have a high school diploma or GED and can proceed with training at Macomb Community College. A number of required elements include vocational training in demand occupations, English Language Skills, basic reading and math skills upgrading, life skills, support services, child care and transportation assistance, etc. The local pilot expects to enroll 280 customers in the community outreach component and 140 in the campus-centered component. Funds for this program total \$4,202,000.

Ms. Prose listed a number of challenges such as mandatory participation; higher allocation of training costs than needed; reluctance of customers to participate in basic skills upgrading, participation in 20 hours of mandated employment, community service, or unpaid work experience while upgrading skills; a short-term program that may not allow for definitive outcomes, and; no local program flexibility.

Staff will continue to provide the committee with periodic updates.

#### **V. OTHER BUSINESS**

Members will continue to be updated on the progress of the initiative with Chrysler Corporation's Warren Stamping Plant where 80 permanent layoffs are expected. The plant is anticipating a 14% reduction in their labor force.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne  
Recording Secretary