

**EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**January 18, 2007**

**I. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

George Kovtun  
John Bozymowski

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jennie Tunnell  
Gary Polulak

**OTHERS PRESENT**

John Bierbusse  
Marsha Prose  
Linda McLatcher

Mr. Kovtun called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 19, 2006 EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2006 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT**

**a. Recommendation to Approve PY'06 Incentive Plan**

Mr. Bierbusse presented the incentive award plan. There is a \$1 million pool available statewide that Michigan Works Agencies share based on their performance. Due to past performance whereby all Macomb/St. Clair standards were either met or exceeded, the State has allocated an incentive award totaling \$84,957. All funds will be directed into WIA adult classroom training.

After review and discussion, **JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY'06 INCENTIVE AWARD PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Recommendation to Modify PY'06 Dislocated Worker Plan**

Mr. Bierbusse applied for additional funds through the State's adjustment grant for the dislocated worker program and was notified of an increase of \$965,000, which was incorporated into the plan. All funds will be directed to program costs. Staff will continue to apply for more funds.

After review and discussion, **JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO MODIFY THE PY'06 DISLOCATED WORKER PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**c. Recommendation to Approve Incumbent Worker Proposals**

Two requests were received for incumbent worker funding. The first request was made by St. Clair County Community College to provide team building and lean manufacturing training for 90 employees of Mapal Inc in Port Huron. The cost is \$16,679 for 2,120 hours of training.

The second request was for 7 employees of Prestige Engineering Resources for Catia V5 training. Mr. Bierbusse reported that Macomb Community College was unable to provide the

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training as the employer requested evening classes. Therefore, training will be conducted at Oakland Community College for a cost of \$6,650.

If approved by the board, all incumbent worker funds for this program year will be expended.

After review and discussion, **JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TWO INCUMBENT WORKER PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**d. Informational Items**

**i. Plant Closures**

Members reviewed closures of four businesses. Cadillac Products in Warren announced closure in December affecting 50 employees. No rapid response meeting was held but a worker orientation in November was held with 27 employees attending.

Macy's North Distribution Center in Warren is closing between February and March, affecting 115 employees. None have bumping rights. Of the 115, 68 are represented by Teamsters Local 299. A rapid response meeting will be held January 22nd.

Collins & Aikman is closing facilities in both Warren and Port Huron in March. A rapid response meeting is expected in the near future.

A former board member informed staff that Seaway Plastics in Marine City is closing near the end of February affecting 12 employees, seven of which are union members. A worker orientation will be conducted in early February.

Employees of Special Tool & Engineering Inc of Fraser petitioned and were granted trade certification. Staff received notification January 11<sup>th</sup>. The company was contacted by board staff and a trade orientation has been scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> effecting 63 laid off employees from November 2005 to date.

**ii. BRAC Request for Proposal**

The board received a \$125,000 grant in June to address the concerns regarding the Army Garrison closure at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The plan indicated hiring a consultant firm to obtain information on individual needs and the effect on the local economy.

Approximately 270 civilian employees will be affected but it was reported that only 29 people attended an orientation. It is hoped that a full-time consultant will be able to obtain better results. Therefore, a request for proposal was released at the end of December and is due back January 26<sup>th</sup>. Members will be kept informed of any progress.

Members discussed further a closure of a TACOM facility in Rock Island, Illinois, where 1,000 workers are expected to relocate and begin work at the plant in Warren. Members suggested that a staff member attend the plant meeting to assist these people and their families with the relocation.

**IV. TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE**

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**a. Recommendation to Modify the 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.

Mr. Bierbusse reported that previously the State of Michigan indicated approval of a preliminary allocation equal to the total of last year's funding in Trade Adjustment Assistance funds. Since that time, policy has changed and the State is releasing funds on a monthly basis. Carry-in was also adjusted to reflect actual dollars. Ten percent is allowed for administration of the program, leaving 90% directed to training. The total budget is now \$428,415 and will continue to be readjusted throughout the year.

**JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO MODIFY THE FY'07 TAA PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. WORK FIRST**

**a. Recommendation to Approve Macomb County Department of Human Services Supportive Services Funding**

Ms. Prose reported that this is the fourth year of a local agreement with the Macomb County Department of Human Services to provide additional TANF funds for employment-related support services. The agreement transfers \$25,000 from DHS to the Workforce Development Board. Funds will be primarily used to provide child care services to eligible dependent children of those participating in the JET program within the Macomb County Michigan Works service centers. Funds may also be used for auto-related services to those same participants.

**JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH MACOMB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY GEORGE KOVTUN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Informational Item**

**i. Welfare Reform in Michigan**

Marsha Prose highlighted some of the reforms to the welfare system in Michigan. Effective October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, recipients will be held to a 48-month lifetime limit on receiving benefits. However, she noted that this "clock" may be stopped for those who are temporarily exempted from work (medical); for those meeting requirements of the self-sufficiency plan by attending Work First; or the unemployment rate in the recipient's county exceeds 25 percent above state average. Those exempted may include persons with learning disabilities or low intellectual capacity that would impede comprehension and prevent success in basic reading, writing and math or be unable to perform routine manual labor tasks.

Recipients who leave the cash assistance program due to earned income but continue to meet the federal work participation guidelines will receive a \$10 monthly employment subsidy for six months.

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The JET program will no longer be a pilot program but will be implemented statewide by September. Due to the economy, members noted a 25% to 30% increase in FIP caseloads from last year.

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 15, 2007. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne  
Recording Secretary