

EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 18, 2008

I. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Bozymowski
George Kovtun
Dave Brandt

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Moran
Gary Polulak
Jennie Tunnell
Debbie Bouts

OTHERS PRESENT

John Bierbusse
Linda McLatcher
Marsha Prose

Mr. Kovtun called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 21, 2008 EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES

JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2008 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY DAVE BRANDT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

a. Recommendation on Incumbent Worker Projects

Staff was notified that the project approved for Macomb Community College - Michigan Metal Technologies was withdrawn freeing up \$19,124. A new request through St. Clair County Community College, working in conjunction with the Economic Development Alliance in Port Huron, was submitted. They are seeking \$49,431 to provide training to 70 employees of Engineered Plastics Components located in St. Clair. With the massive loss of jobs at Blue Water Automotive in Marysville, it is anticipated that this retraining will retain 150 jobs. The State will match funds.

After review and discussion, **DAVE BRANDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY'08 INCUMBENT WORKER PROJECT 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 was notified that UFP Technologies - SIMCO Automotive will be closing its facility in Macomb Township and transferring the work to their plant in Kentwood, MI, on the western side of the state. Approximately 50 employees will be affected. A rapid response or worker orientation will be scheduled when the number of transfers is determined.

Spartech contacted Michigan Works to report closure of their facility in St. Clair in mid-October affecting 26 employees. Work will be relocated to other company locations. Their HR manager requested that information be forwarded so they may dispense to employees at the time of layoff. They declined a worker orientation.

Two companies have been trade certified. Chrysler's Warren Stamping Plant in Warren, where 1600 people are currently employed, was certified August 8th. A trade orientation will be conducted September 25th at the local union hall for those currently laid off. Two more will be held for all employees October 2nd and 7th. Other Michigan Works agencies from Oakland and Wayne counties, along with the City of Detroit, will be involved. Employees will be required to complete trade paperwork at the time of lay off and will be required to update monthly in order to receive their sub pay as outlined in their union contract.

Tower Automotive Operations in Clinton Township was certified August 19th. Approximately 200 employees are affected. Currently there have been approximately 40 lay offs. A trade orientation will be held September 30th.

The report was received and filed.

IV. JOBS, EDUCATION & TRAINING (JET)

a. Recommendation to Approve FY'09 JET Plan

Members reviewed an historical overview of the JET program. Due to the local economy the emphasis now is not only to obtain employment but also encourages customers to seek training that will result in economic self-sufficiency. Federal regulations require a minimum of 50% of work eligible cash welfare recipients participate in defined activities for 20 per week if the youngest child is less than age six; 30 hours if over age six. Those states that do not meet this requirement risk decreased funding. The final federal regulations were reauthorized beginning October 1, 2008 where TANF regulations define core and non-core activities that count toward meeting requirements. Ms. Prose noted how the challenge is to design individual program plans that meet the needs of each individual and include the required mix of services in order to meet the federal work participation requirements. Partners in this initiative include not only the Michigan Works agencies, but also Michigan Rehabilitation Services and the Department of Human Services along with other community-based organizations and educational entities.

There are three funding sources available. The local federal TANF allocation is \$3,733,200; WIA allocation is \$292,006; and the state's GF/GP contribution is \$891,075.

After review and discussion, **JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY'09 JOBS, EDUCATION & TRAINING L(JET) PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY DAVE BRANDT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Recommendation to Approve JET PLUS Plan

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 are can proceed with training at Macomb Community College. A number of required elements include vocational training; English as a Second Language; computer literacy, 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.

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After review and discussion, **DAVE BRANDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY'09 JET PLUS PROGRAM AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY JOHN BOZYMOWSKI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. FOOD ASSISTANCE EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING PROGRAM

a. Recommendation to Approve PY'09 Plan

There are no significant changes to the 2009 Food Assistance Employment & Training program. Since this program services single adults without dependents who are eligible for food assistance only, Ms. Prose noted that the significant population that is served are those customers who are enrolled in the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative. The federal eligibility participation time frame for this program was waived due to Michigan's current economic status. Supportive services are limited to \$50 per month. Funds are allocated by the US Department of Agriculture and total \$304,954. The program requires 20 hours of activities per week leading to a minimum of 20 hours of employment weekly.

After review and discussion, **JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY'09 FOOD ASSISTANCE EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING PROGRAM AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY DAVE BRANDT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Bierbusse informed members to expect receipt of an allocation for the *No Worker Left Behind* initiative, which will require approval of a plan at the next meeting. Also expected is preliminary information on an allocation and planning process for a local National Emergency Grant.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne
Recording Secretary