

**MINUTES OF THE  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

September 26, 2019

The Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board met at 3:00 p.m. Thursday, September 26, 2019 at Clinton Township Michigan Works Career Center with the following members present:

(☑ denotes private sector):

**AT ROLL CALL:**

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Karen Arondoski | ✓ David Jaraczewski |
| ✓ Krista Barr     | ✓ Peter Keating     |
| Dan Casey         | ✓ Joe Keppler       |
| Hannah Costello   | ✓ Mike Kramer       |
| ✓ Ann Forster     | Val Nunn            |
| ✓ Jennifer Gavin  | Jim Peltier         |
| Lee Graham        | Bill Peterson       |
| ✓ Danielle Hart   | Jim Sawyer          |
| ✓ Carter Hitesman | ✓ Sam Serra         |
| ✓ Lindsey Hoover  | ✓ Charles Shaw      |
| Christol James    | Maria Zardis        |

**AFTER ROLL CALL:**

Jason Dahl

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| ✓ Sharise Eckenrode | Erin Smith     |
| Tanise Hill         | ✓ Karen Vaughn |
| Monika Leasure      |                |

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

John Bierbusse, Executive Director  
Bernice Kerner, MIS/Special Projects Coordinator

**Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board**

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**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Michael Kramer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with 22 members present

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

**BILL PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 22, 2019 MINUTES AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY DAN CASEY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Chairperson's Report**

Mike Kramer introduced two newly appointed board members, Krista Barr from TK Mold & Engineering and David Jaraczewski from R & E Automation. Both will represent the private sector on this board. Members gave Ms. Barr and Mr. Jaraczewski a warm welcome.

**5. Standing Committee Reports**

**A. ONE-STOP COMMITTEE**

In the absence of Committee Chair Tanise Hill, John Bierbusse gave the One-Stop Committee Report.

**1. Meeting of September 17, 2019**

**a. Recommendation to Approve FY 2020 Business Resource Network (BRN) Policy for Employer Contracts**

Mr. Bierbusse reminded the board that originally funding for the Business Resource Network was slated to end September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year and all current contracts would have ended at that time. He informed members that we are extending the contract end date for existing BRN contracts to one-year from the starting date of the contract with the grant supporting 100% of the cost of the Success Coach. Upon completion of that year, an employer may choose to negotiate a BRN contract with the cost to support the Success Coach being shared equally between the employer and the grant with an end date of September 30, 2020. For new employers signing on to the program, the grant will support 100% of the cost of the Success Coach for one-year or until September 30, 2020 whichever comes first. Mr. Bierbusse stated that ultimately the state will end support of this program and employers will have to make the decision whether the BRN program has enough value for them to continue funding the Success Coaches.

**DAN CASEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE BRN POLICY FOR EMPLOYER CONTRACTS; SUPPORT BY CHARLES SHAW. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**b. Informational Items**

**i. One-Stop Operator Report**

Mr. Bierbusse reported that the Frank Taylor Group, Inc., the One-Stop Operator, updates the One-Stop Committee monthly on how activities are being coordinated within our Career Centers. This month's report updated information on the Customer Focus Groups which brings together training customers to discuss services they have received from Michigan Works! and how we can improve upon those services. The Board will receive a final report on the information gathered once all focus groups are completed.

New this month, the One-Stop Operator has begun working with Macomb County's Emergency Management and Communication staff to initiate a plan to assess the safety and security needs of each Career Center. There is no cost for this assessment which will be conducted by the North Group.

*Dahl arrived*

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At the building wide meetings this month, a representative of the Human Services Coordinating Body presented information on how to use existing service networks in Macomb County. Patty Madigan from the Workforce Development Board reviewed procedures for obtaining an interpreter and translation services for Michigan Works! customers and the State Veterans staff presented an overview of current services they provide. A presentation on Community Ventures Business Resource Network was made by Success Coach Sam Hines at Clinton Township.

As part of the Strategic Process Review, the One Stop Operator is planning an assessment exercise for leadership staff called True Colors which teaches skills for maximizing performance through better communication.

**ii. Going Pro**

The application process for the Going Pro Talent Fund is underway and will be available to employers through October 2<sup>nd</sup>. To date Mr. Bierbusse reported that there have been 674 applications submitted statewide. The application process has been updated this year requiring employers to go to the online website and request authorization from the local MWA to obtain an application. The MWA will review the application for errors and will submit it to the state for funding consideration. Smaller companies who would like to submit an application as part of an Industry-Led Collaborative (ILC) will be able to do so beginning October 21<sup>st</sup>. The ILC application will remain open until all the Talent Fund dollars are allocated.

**iii. Facility Closure Report**

Information has been received from news reports on store closures in our area. Kmart in Marine City is one of eight stores in Michigan closing by the end of the year. The Avenue clothing store has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy nationwide. Stores scheduled to close include the locations in Clinton Twp., Roseville and Sterling Heights. Business Services staff are trying to connect with store management to offer reemployment services and training funds through the Trade & Economic Transition Dislocated Worker Grant to workers in the retail trade and financial services.

Mr. Bierbusse also reported that we have scheduled six worker orientations for the 1,300 trade certified workers laid off from the GM Tech Center. It is Michigan Works! responsibility to notify workers of the benefits available to them including training, relocation services and extended unemployment benefits up to 104 weeks.

**iv. Food Assistance Employment and Training**

The Food Assistance Employment & Training program has been reauthorized for fiscal year 2020. The initial funding of \$195,630 has been raised to \$203,000. Although funding is for Macomb County, we will continue to provide services to St. Clair County participants due to their high activity level.

In 2019 participation levels of referred customers was at 3.6% in St. Clair County and 1.1% in Macomb County. Of 225 total participants, 105 (46.7%) were from St. Clair County and 120 (53.3%) from Macomb County, 46% were female compared to 53.8% male, 60% were age 18-35, 40% were age 36-49 and 63.7% hold high school diplomas

**v. Refugee Navigator/Refugee Program**

Mr. Bierbusse reminded members that a Refugee Navigator was hired by Macomb/St. Clair to work with the refugee population. He noted that currently it is difficult to support the Navigator because most refugees in Macomb County had been from Iraq and as of 2019, Macomb County has seen no new arrivals. Two charts were viewed by the Board showing the overall number of refugee arrivals in Michigan. One chart shows the

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country of origin and the age of those arrivals. Ingham and Kent Counties are now receiving the highest numbers of refugees largely from African nations. The 2<sup>nd</sup> chart shows the numbers in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Ingham and Kent Counties between 2013-2019. The overall number of arrivals has steadily dropped in most counties.

**vi. Business Resource Network (BRN)**

The committee was updated on the Business Resource Network/Community Ventures program. There are 13 companies in Macomb and 2 in St. Clair County involved in the program. Molzon Media has been selected to produce a video as a new recruitment tool used to attract more businesses. Three current BRN companies will be featured in the video which is set to be completed by the end of September.

Binson's employees were invited to attend a resource fair coordinated by Success Coach Scott Bentas. The fair included free credit counseling from Chemical Bank's Mobile Empowerment Learning Center plus information from other free resources in the community. Due to its success, Binson's plans to hold another event soon. Axalta Coating Systems is planning a similar event for their employees in October.

As the first year of the BRN program comes to an end, Success Coaches will use information collected in our Sales Force system to demonstrate to BRN employers the benefits received and cost savings in retaining employees rather than having to hire and train new employees.

Success Coaches have been enrolled in a Business Solutions Professional training to upgrade their skills in working with employers and will attend a Success Coach Summit with other BRN Coordinators from five other MWAs.

**vii. Senior Community Service Employment Program**

The Board viewed outcomes for the 2018 Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) presented by Bernice Kerner. Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works serves Macomb, Oakland and St. Clair Counties in placing persons age 55+ who are below 125% of the poverty level at a host agency working 19 hours a week at minimum wage. For 2018 we have 74 slots filled out of 95 allotted. Included were charts comparing participation levels between Macomb/St. Clair and the entire state. Ms. Kerner reported that the take away from these charts is that Macomb/St. Clair positively impacts state outcomes.

**i. Telling Our Story**

Mr. Bierbusse encouraged members to read the entire summer issue of Telling Our Story to learn more of the work being done in the Career Centers. This issue relays several stories of gratitude expressed by customers for the help they received from Michigan Works! and the case managers who helped them achieve their goals.

**B. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**1. Meeting of September 12, 2019**

**a. Recommendation to Approve FY 2019 PATH Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Budget Modification**

Macomb/St. Clair received \$154,985 in additional Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding for 2019. Because the allocation for FY 2020, beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, has not yet been received carry-in to 2020 will be operational funds and has been increased by \$60,000. Additional dollars will enhance Information Technology & Computerization and the Michigan Works Career Center Contract. This revised budget totals \$4,545,508.

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**CHARLES SHAW MOVED TO APPROVE FY 2019 PATH TANF BUDGET MODIFICATION; SUPPORT BY BILL PETERSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Recommendation to Approve FY 2019 Offender Success Budget Modification**

Macomb/St. Clair submitted a budget modification to the State revising the fiscal year 2019 Offender Success budget. The amount approved for on-the-job training was not fully utilized so that amount was lowered by \$6,400 and funding for case management was increased by \$6,400. The budget remains at \$1,320,007

**BILL PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE FY 2019 OFFENDER SUCCESS BUDGET MODIFICATION; SUPPORT BY CHARLES SHAW. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**c. Recommendation to Approve FY 2020 Department of Corrections Offender Success Budget**

The Offender Success program is beginning the third year of a four-year contract with the State. The amount allocated for each year of the contract is identical at \$1,574,907. A large portion of the budget is for short-term housing, needed by parolees who don't have a place to go home to. There are no significant line item changes. The FY 2020 budget totals \$1,328,924.

**JIM PELTIERE MOVED TO APPROVE FY 2020 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFENDER SUCCESS BUDGET; SUPPORT BY DAN CASEY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**d. Recommendation to Approve FY 2020 Food Assistance Employment & Training (FAE&T) Program Budget**

The Fiscal Year 2020 Food Assistance Employment & Training program received an allocation of \$195,630 to serve 18-49-year-old able bodied adults without dependent children who receive food assistance in Macomb County. Macomb/St. Clair has opted to continue serving St. Clair County residents without additional funding due to the high number of St. Clair County residents referred. The FY 2020 budget equals \$176,130.

**CHARLES SHAW MOVED TO APPROVE FY 2020 FAE&T PROGRAM BUDGET; SUPPORT BY JOE KEPPLER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**e. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Performance Reports for PY 2018**

The committee received information from Bernice Kerner on the 2018 standard performance rates for WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth, Wagner-Peyser Employment Services and Trade Adjustment Assistance. These charts can be used to compare Macomb/St. Clair to other MWAs and the state as a whole. The target numbers are negotiated two-year performance measures.

**i. Adult**

The WIOA Adult chart of performance shows that there were a total of 841 participants with 313 exited from the program. The actual employment rate for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters after exit show that Macomb/St. Clair's performance was above the target number. The median earnings are at \$8,792 topping the target of \$6501, the credential rate is at 88.3%, exceeding the target of 71.1%. The Measurable Skills Gain reflects the real time measure of at least one skill gained. Macomb/St. Clair was at 46.8% in that category.

**ii. Dislocated Worker**

The Dislocated Worker program had 434 participants with 88 exits. The actual employment rate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter after exit was 92.6% and 89% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter after exit, both above the goal. Median earnings of

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\$9,149 exceeded the goal of \$7,750. At 63.7% the credential rate did not meet the target of 65% but was above 90% of the goal. The Measurable Skills Gain was at 39.1%

**iii. Youth**

Macomb/St. Clair's Youth program served 352 participants in 2018 with 293 exits. This population includes out of school youth 16-24 year-olds. All performance measures were above the target performance, and the median earnings were at \$3,708. 90.1% of the participants received a credential such as a high school diploma or GED. The Measurable Skills Gain was 63.8%.

**f. Wagner Peyser Employment Services Performance Report for PY 2018**

Macomb/St. Clair serves a large number of Wagner-Peyser funded customers who walk into a Michigan Works office to register for work. Participants who are enrolled in staff assisted activities are counted in performance measures. The employment rate of customers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters after exit were above the target number. Median earnings of \$7,554 surpassed the target of \$6,010.

**g. Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Performance Report for PY 2018**

TAA funding served 168 customers with 94 exits for PY 2018. With no performance goals set, this chart shows the actual employment rate for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter after exit at 89.1% and at 83.1% for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter after exit. The median earnings were \$11,017, credential rate was at 48% and a measurable skill gain of 19%.

**6. Executive Director's Report**

There was no report from the Executive Director.

**7. Other Business**

Bill Peterson thanked members who contacted the U.S. Department of Labor to comment on the apprenticeship program proposal that would allow companies to deregulate apprenticeship programs.

**8. Hearing of the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**9. Scheduling of Next Meeting**

The next general meeting is scheduled for **3:00 pm, Thursday, October 24, 2019 at the Clinton Township Michigan Works Career Center**. Members will be notified.

**10. Adjournment**

**BILL PETERSON MOVED TO ADJOURN; SUPPORT BY DAN CASEY. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean Wurlinger,  
Recording Secretary