

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

January 23, 2020

The Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board met at 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 23, 2020 at the Clinton Township Michigan Works Career Center with the following members present:

(☑ denotes private sector):

AT ROLL CALL:

- Dan Casey
- Jason Dahl
- Ken Dombrow
- ✓ Ann Forster
- Tanise Hill
- ✓ Carter Hitesman
- Christol James
- ✓ David Jaraczewski
- ✓ Peter Keating

- ✓ Joe Keppler
- ✓ Mike Kramer
- Monika Leasure
- Val Nunn
- Jim Peltier
- Bill Peterson
- ✓ Charles Shaw
- Erin Smith

AFTER ROLL:

- ✓ Sharise Eckenrode
- ✓ Jennifer Gavin

- ✓ Lindsey Hoover
- Maria Zardis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- ✓ Karen Arondoski
- ✓ Krista Barr
- ✓ Danielle Hart

- Jim Sawyer
- ✓ Sam Serra

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Bierbusse, Executive Director
Lisa Badalanenti, MDOC
Tom Barr, TK Mold & Engineering
Thomas Heuerman, BSBP

**Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board
January 23, 2020**

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 17 members present.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

**BILL PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 12, 2019 MINUTES AS PRESENTED;
SUPPORT BY JIM PELTIER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. Chairperson's Report

Chairman Mike Kramer notified the Board that Hannah Costello and Karen Vaughn have resigned from their position as members of the Board of Directors. Their resignation is effective as of the date of this meeting.

5. Standing Committee Reports

Gavin arrived

A. ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

1. Meeting of January 14, 2020

a. Recommendation to Approve the Healthy Michigan Plan Program Plan

Committee Chair Tanise Hill presented the Board with information on the Healthy Michigan Plan Program Plan. As of January 1, 2020, Michigan law requires individuals age 19 to 62 who are receiving Medicaid through the Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) to fulfill work requirements for at least 80 hours each month. Requirements will include reporting work or other activities related to job search/job readiness to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Failure to meet this requirement could result in the loss of coverage however, HMP recipients may be exempt from the requirement due to health issues or other extenuating circumstances. It is estimated that there are 19,300 Healthy Michigan Plan members in Macomb County and 3,500 in St. Clair County with work requirements.

Macomb/St. Clair has received \$227,770 in funding to serve Healthy Michigan Plan recipients. Michigan Works! staff will assist the participant toward fulfilling their requirements with a variety of employment related services that include assisting job seekers find employment, providing assessments, job referrals, matching job seekers with employers, placement for job seeker, labor market information and referrals to training services.

**BILL PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE HEALTHY MICHIGAN PLAN PROGRAM PLAN;
SUPPORT BY CHARLES SHAW. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Eckenrode arrived

b. Recommendation to Approve the Healthy Michigan Plan Navigator Program Plan

Macomb/St. Clair received \$161,573 in funding to hire and/or train Healthy Michigan Plan Navigators. The Navigators will assist non-exempt participants from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in meeting their work requirement through employment and training related activities. The Navigators will assist with the completion and submission of forms and provide access to the DHHS help line.

Due to a lawsuit filed against the state to determine if the work requirement follows Federal law, Macomb/St. Clair has chosen to train 16 current staff as Healthy Michigan Plan Navigators rather than hiring new staff who would be laid off in the event there is a reversal of the work requirement.

MONIKA LEASURE MOVED TO APPROVE THE HEALTHY MICHIGAN PLAN NAVIGATOR PROGRAM PLAN; SUPPORT BY DAN CASEY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Hoover arrived

c. Recommendation to Revise Support Services Policy for PATH Program

Customers who have been referred to the PATH program by the Department of Health and Human Services may be provided with supportive services once their cash case is open and up to 180-days from the start of unsubsidized employment. Supportive services are not an entitlement but are items necessary to remove barriers to training and employment.

The State of Michigan working with the Department of Health and Human Services has recently increased the limits on certain supportive services to PATH customers. A once in a lifetime auto purchase will increase from \$2,000 to \$4,000. The clothing allowance for interview clothes and required work clothes such as uniforms or steel toed boots has increased from \$250 to \$500 in a 12-month period. Car insurance is currently limited to a start-up payment or a one-month payment. The new policy will pay \$2,000 for auto insurance in a lifetime. Auto repairs, including tires and maintenance, remain at \$900 in a 12-month period.

ERIN SMITH MOVED TO REVISE THE SUPPORT SERVICES POLICY FOR THE PATH PROGRAM; SUPPORT BY CHARLES SHAW. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

a. Informational Items

i. PATH – High School Completion Initiative

Currently, high school completion is not a core activity and does not count toward an individual meeting the federal work participation requirement of the PATH program. The lack of a high school diploma or GED has kept some PATH customers from moving toward self-sufficiency. Because of the success of Michigan's PATH program, the state is no longer at risk of losing Federal funding and is able to expand the opportunity for PATH participants to pursue high school completion or high school equivalency.

The Board was informed by Ms. Hill that beginning January 1, 2020, the High School Completion Pilot will now allow "Satisfactory Attendance at a Secondary School or in a Course of Study Leading to a Certificate of General Equivalence" as a core activity. PATH participants lacking this credential will be referred to a local Adult Education program for enrollment in a high school completion or high school equivalency program with those hours counting toward their work participation requirement.

ii. Going-Pro Talent Fund

In updating the Board on the status of the Going-Pro Talent Fund, Tanise Hill reported that this program remains unfunded for 2020 because of the state budget impasse. There is the possibility that the program could be funded as the Governor's office and the legislature are negotiating a supplemental budget which would be added to the existing budget.

The 65 employers who applied for these funds through Macomb/St. Clair have been kept up to date on the status of the program and are being encouraged to contact their local State Representatives and Senators. This report provided the name of negotiators from the legislature who will be guiding the decision on which line items will be funded as part of the supplemental budget.

iii. Company Closure Report

Ms. Hill reported that MSX International, located in Centerline, lost their contract with Fiat-Chrysler Automobiles as a Warranty Contact Center causing the permanent layoff of 116 employees. The

**Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board
January 23, 2020**

company was attempting to place the affected workers, mostly processors and call center agents, elsewhere. The new vendor handling the contract showed an interest in hiring some of the laid off workers, so it is not known how many have picked up new employment.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

1. Meeting of January 9, 2020

a. Recommendation to Approve the Response to an RFP to Operate a Summer Young Professionals Program

Lindsay Hoover told the Board that Macomb/St. Clair initially chose not to bid for Statewide Activity funds to run a Summer Young Professionals program in 2020. This was due to the stipulation that 50% of the dollars be used for summer employment for out-of-school youth. Macomb/St. Clair requested a waiver in serving only out-of-school youth believing they would be better served with work readiness skills and long-term employment rather than summer employment opportunities. The waiver was denied, and Macomb/St. Clair agreed to apply for \$180,000 to provide 50 youth age 14-24 with summer opportunities for 25 to 35 hours per weeks for 6 to 8 weeks at an average rate of \$10.00 per hour. Funds will be used for summer employment as well as activities focusing on employability skills and job readiness. Macomb/St. Clair has proposed a total budget of \$180,000 with \$100,800 to be used for participant wages including incentives and fringe benefits.

Mr. Bierbusse added that the state may expand this program to include additional funding for in-school youth.

BILL PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESPONSE TO AN RFP TO OPERATE A SUMMER YP PROGRAM; SUPPORT BY MONIKA LEASURE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Recommendation to Approve CY 2020 America's Promise Grant Budget Modification

This is the 4th year of America's Promise Grant, a regional initiative including 6 Michigan Works Agencies in Southeast Michigan. This grant is designed to help underemployed and unemployed workers gain skills and jobs in automation and robotics in Southeast Michigan. Macomb/St. Clair is requesting \$198,424 in additional funds for customers who wish to earn a credential in robotics. The funds will be redistributed from other Michigan Works Agencies within the grant who have not been able to spend down the dollars they were allotted. With \$63,230 carried in from 2019, this budget totals \$261,654 and will be available to spend through December 31, 2020.

BILL PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE CY 2020 AMERICA'S PROMISE GRANT BUDGET MODIFICATION; SUPPORT BY CHARLES SHAW. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Informational Items

i. Update of America's Promise Grant

America's Promise Grant, locally known as the Catalyst Grant, is funded by the US Department of Labor with the goal of training unemployed and underemployed residents for careers in robotics and automation. All the training for Macomb/St. Clair is done through Macomb Community College and MTEC. Students can earn a certificate of completion in robot programming, robot technicians, electrical technicians, maintenance technicians and control technicians.

Performance measures as of January 2020 show that Macomb/St. Clair served a total of 217 participants; 216 have enrolled in training activities. Of the 216 enrolled, 166 have completed training receiving a degree or other credential. Of those, 142 have obtained employment. These numbers all exceed the goals of the grant. Macomb/St. Clair has been able to stretch funding by blending the grant dollars with

**Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board
January 23, 2020**

WIOA and MTEC dollars for 120 of the participants served. There were 97 customers who were funded with grant dollars only.

Money already spent from this grant includes \$153,750 for Industrial Readiness which prepares students prior to entering training and \$766,129 for the Catalyst Training for a total of \$919,879. There has been \$506,550 in WIOA dollars spent.

ii. PY 2019 Second Quarter Performance Reports

The Board reviewed two performance charts for the 2nd Quarter of 2019. The first chart shows State negotiated goals vs actual outcomes for adults, dislocated workers, youth, Wagner-Peyser and TAA in:

- Employment Rate, 2nd Quarter after exit;
- Employment Rate, 4th Quarter after exit;
- Median Earnings, 2nd Quarter after exit;
- Credential Attainment within 4 Quarters after exit; and
- Measurable Skills Gain

Two additional charts show actual performance divided by performance goals for Macomb/St. Clair and the State. This is helpful in determining how Macomb/St. Clair compares with overall state numbers. In order to meet goals, each row and each column must average at least 90% of the goal and each individual measure must be at least 50% of the goal. By performing at or above the state's performance, Macomb/St. Clair has a positive impact on the State's overall performance out comes.

iii. Annual Accounts of Funding Sources

This spreadsheet shows the amount Macomb/St. Clair has received from the various funding sources each year since 2009. Within each year there are Program Year (PY) funds for programs beginning July 1st and Fiscal Year (FY) funds beginning October 1st. The bottom line gives totals for each year. Ms. Hoover noted the high amounts of funding received during the recession years compared to funding received to date for 2020. The committee was reminded that Macomb/St. Clair has requested funding for the Going Pro Training Fund which would increase 2020 funding by \$5 million.

6. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Bierbusse presented a historic document demonstrating the growth of the Skilled Trades Training Fund -Going Pro program since it originated in 2015. He stated that 65 companies have submitted applications from Macomb/St. Clair requesting funds totaling \$4,954,285 for 2020 making this a substantial program for this area.

He added that although this program has the support of both the Legislature and the Governor, it is being used as leverage making it unlikely that funding will be included in a supplemental budget. He believes this is problematic because without 2020 funding, employers may become discouraged and not apply for funding in 2021.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Hearing of the Public

There were no comments from the public.

8. Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next general meeting is scheduled for 3:00 pm, Thursday, February 27, 2020. Members will be notified.

**Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board
January 23, 2020**

9. Adjournment

BILL PETERSON MOVED TO ADJOURN; SUPPORT BY TANISE HILL. MOTION CARRIED. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Wurmlinger".

Jean Wurmlinger,
Recording Secretary