

**GST MICHIGAN WORKS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021
9:36 A.M.**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Chair, Leanne Panduren. Members present at the virtual meeting are noted by the X.

Avendt, Scott	X	McNeil, Mia	X
Batistoni, Peter	X	Mose, Sandi	X
Collison, Dennis		Panduren, Leanne	X
Dunlap, Glenda	X	Ransford, Mark	
Ernst, Matt	X	Rogers, Lisa	X
Harrington, Harold		Schlaud, Annette	X
Hipes, Howard	X	Schultz, Vicky	
Joiner, Jessica (Verona Terry)	X	Stone, Kendra	
Kariem, Gerald		Turner, Rafael	X
Kunisch, Chuck	X	Turner, Scott	X
Lewis-Jennings, Tracie	X		

15 members were present.

County Commissioners Present: Bryant Nolden, John Bodis, Rick Warren, Roger Ballard, Tom Young, Debra Newman and Marlene Webster

Staff Present: Sharon Bowen, Kelly Cook, Jessica Billiau, Wendy Paxton, JulAnn Kuenzli and Helen Brown

Others Present: Phyllis Marshall, Bureau of Services for the Blind and Steve Peterson, MRS

Chair Leanne Panduren spoke regarding the well-received correspondence from Jody Kerbyson. Members agreed the news was fantastic.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Leanne Panduren, called for approval of the agenda. Scott Turner moved to approve the agenda. Scott Avendt supported the motion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for a vote.

All present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED.

III. Introductions of New Members

Chair Leanne Panduren welcomed new members to the WDB and Governing Board. Introductions were made:

WDB – Rafael Turner, Consumers Energy – Genesee County
Governing Board – Debra Newman, Commissioner – Genesee County
Governing Board – Roger Ballard, Commissioner – Sanilac County
Governing Board – Marlene Webster, Commissioner – Shiawassee County

New members who were not present, were:

Governing Board – Gary Heberling, Commissioner - Sanilac County
Governing Board – Douglas DuRussel, Commissioner – Tuscola County

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. Action Items

- Approval of Minutes

Scott Turner moved to approve the December 11, 2020 minutes. Chuck Kunisch supported the motion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for a vote.

All present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED.

- Approval of March 12, 2021 Plans

Sharon Bowen explained the plans before the Board. They included, Healthy Michigan Plan, Young Professionals Grant, Summer Youth Employment Program for Chafee-Eligible Foster Youth, Going Pro, United Way Support Grant and DTE Foundation.

Chuck Kunisch moved to approve the 2021 plans. Scott Avedt supported the motion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for a vote.

All present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED.

- Approval of Monitoring Services Extension

Sharon Bowen presented the recommendation of Gaffney & Associates as the provider of the GST Monitoring Services. This is a 12-month extension of existing services.

Glenda Dunlap moved to approve the Monitoring Services extension. Howard Hipes supported the motion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for a vote.

All present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED.

VI. Approval of Finance Report

Kelly Cook presented the Grant Budget Expenditure Report for July 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021. She asked Jessica Billiau to make comments regarding recruitment efforts. Members may see advertisement regarding GST. Forty-two (42) buses in Genesee County and the other counties carry advertisements about us. There are flyers in food distribution boxes. Presently, there are 3,000 active job postings on MiTalent Connect. More will be highlighted in our quarterly newsletter.

Scott Turner moved to approve the report. Verona Terry supported the motion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for vote.

All present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED.

VII. Agency Update – Sharon Bowen

- Sharon Bowen thanked new members for agreeing to serve on the Board.
- GST staff have been assisting UIA since the pandemic and answered 90,000 calls for them. UIA briefly removed our access rights, but it was later re-instated.
- Sharon Bowen met with Senator Horn and others regarding the budget and thanked him for his Going Pro support.
- We submitted \$1.7 in Going Pro applications. All the applications were approved.
- Staff has been attending several trainings. Recently staff attended virtual Basic and Advanced Zoom trainings. Flyers are in today's packet. This training is open to board members. Anyone interested in attending should contact Helen Brown.
- We need a quorum for the June meeting, as the budget will be presented and will need approval. Chair Leanne Panduren mentioned members should be conscious about the December meeting also.
- New members should take note of the acronyms included in the pack. We often use them. Chair Leanne Panduren suggested we add ALICE to the list.
- Staff is working on a Return-to-Work policy. The HR Director, Wendy Paxton was asked to give an update. The plan is to have a gradually return. GST may start with working two full days and gradually increase those days as we observe the results. A survey will be sent to assess the staff's level of comfort. When we open, it will be by appointment only. We are considering child-care, latch key, etc. before opening. Staff safety is a concern, especially due to situations about unhappy UIA customers. We have investigated security options, if needed.

VIII. Informational Items

Jessica Billiau shared the Talent Talk Newsletter for this quarter. She highlighted the following:

- Our newest board member, Rafael Turner representing the Business Sector from Consumers Energy.
- Listing of the 37 Going Pro Employers.
- Thanks to Howard Hipes for assistance with apprenticeships.
- Christian Dunn, residential student at Job Corps, is now attending Mott Community College.

Chair Leanne Panduren reminded members to share the newsletter with their contacts. The word needs to get out about all the programs and services provided by GST Michigan Works!

IX. Partner Agency Update

Michigan Rehabilitation Services – Tracie Lewis-Jennings

- MRS serves six counties, five of which are in the GST area.
- Tracie noted she was excited to hear from Jody.
- MRS has served 1600 individuals to-date this program year. We work with 17 service providers for virtual services.
- Introduction was made of Steve Peterson. He may attend future meetings for Tracie.
- MRS is losing Patrick Hurst, Site Manager who is retiring on the 31st. There will be an opening for our Business Representative for the District, and we have also hired two new counselors in Flint.
- Contact will be made with Wanda Bigelow and Jessica Billiau regarding apprenticeships.
- There has been success in our pre-employment services for 9th -10th graders.
- The focus is on high-paying sustainable jobs.

Steve Peterson thanked GST for allowing him to attend. He is excited to join the workforce development conversation.

Department of Health and Human Services – Sandi Mose

1. A press release from Governor Whitmer was distributed on January 28, 2021 regarding another Open Enrollment for health care coverage. Some key points include:
 - During the early months of the pandemic, Michigan experienced an estimated 46% increase in the number of uninsured adults and thousands of Michiganders remain uninsured, underlining the need for this federal action and the decision to open the federal marketplace again for enrollment in healthcare coverage.
 - The State will launch outreach efforts to help Michiganders sign up for health coverage during this upcoming special enrollment period that will run from Feb. 15 through May 15.
2. COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) Program
 - MSHDA will be receiving \$600 million from Treasury for rental and utility assistance.
 - The funding is for renters only, based on income limits and will be administered locally through the Housing Assessment Resource Agencies (<https://www.michigan.gov/mcteh/0,8782,7-349-78543-516887--,00.html>) Huron, Lapeer, Tuscola, Sanilac (Blue Water Center for Independent Living) Shiawassee (Capital Area Community Services) Genesee (Catholic Charities).
 - MSHDA - COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) (michigan.gov) has the eligibility information, application and contact list for each county.
 - The funding has to be spent by 12/31/21.

3. MDHHS staff continue to work from home until May 1. There is no word yet if this will be extended further, although it is anticipated that many staff will continue to work from home when the offices do open. Lobbies remain closed except for appointments. Previous meeting minutes have the phone numbers to call for questions and and/or assistance with applying for benefits. Will put them in the chat box to be included again in these meeting minutes as well.

MDHHS Questions?

- Genesee, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Sanilac Counties – Call **Client Connect 844-464-3447**
- All other counties in the GST MIWorks! area should call the local DHHS office number.

If someone needs help applying for Medicaid, they may call (800) 642-3195

If someone needs help applying for food assistance, they may call (888) 544-8773

Also, can apply at www.michigan.gov/mibridges

Adult Education – Annette Schlaud

- Annette caution everyone to continue to be careful during this time. Adult Education has been open and has lost a staff member to COVID.
- Several goals have been determined by Region 6 Adult Ed:
 1. Maintain our enrollment goals
 2. Improve student reading results
 3. Maintain credentials
 4. Expand program services

X. Board Member Comments/Other

Verona Terry, Job Corps reported that she received posters from GST. Students can look at over 8,000 different jobs. She invited members to attend their virtual CRC meeting on the 18th at 11:00 a.m.

Mia McNeil, U of M-Flint, shared links for two programs the school is presently working on:

- MI START GATE : mistartgate.com
Resources are available for employers to get information regarding the region.
- Blue For You: umflint.edu/blueforyou
Students can get additional support for childcare. In addition, anyone about 30 credits away from their degree can get help with graduation.

Howard Hipes, Michigan Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, complimented the Board and GST regarding their relationship with UIA. Because of this relationship, individuals in apprenticeships were able to continue trainings.

Jessica Billiau announced that GST will be installing red mailboxes outside each office for individuals to drop their resumes off 24/7.

XI. Adjournment

Seeing no other business, Chair Leanne Panduren adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Mose, Secretary
Helen Brown, Support Staff



Sandi Mose, Secretary

6/11/2021
Date

Supported by the State of Michigan. GSTMW materials and programs paid for with State and Federal funds. Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. 1-800-285-9675 TTY: 711. A proud partner of the American Job Center Network.