

**GST MICHIGAN WORKS**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021**  
**9:30 A.M.**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Chair, Leanne Panduren. Members present at the meeting are noted by the X.

Avendt, Scott	X	McNeil, Mia	
Batistoni, Peter	X	Mose, Sandi/Jeff Cook	X
Brinkman, Mary	X	Panduren, Leanne	X
Collison, Dennis	X	Rogers, Lisa	X
Dawes, Steve		Schlaud, Annette/Mary Shelton-Weise	X
Dunlap, Glenda		Schultz, Vicky/Melissa Mehalko	
Ernst, Matt/Brenda Hinds	X	Sheppard, Daniel/Verona Terry	X
Harrington, Harold/Kevin Gaby		Stone, Kendra	
Hipes, Howard/Scott McDonald		Turner, Rafael	X
Kunisch, Chuck/Karen Wagner	X	Turner, Scott/Megan Jacobs	X
Lewis-Jennings, Tracie	X		

14 members were present.

Alternate Members Present: Verona Terry

Governing Board Members Present: Roger Ballard, John Bodis, John Plowman, Todd Talaski, Ellen Ellenburg, Quentin Bishop, and Bryan Zehnder

Staff Present: Sharon Bowen, Kelly Cook, Jessica Billiau, Wendy Paxton JulAnn Kuenzli, and Annalisa King-Przybysz

Others Present: Nick Morehead – DHHS, Steve Peterson – MRS, Linda Watson – MRS

II. Introductions

Leanne asked that everyone please introduce themselves.

III. Approval of Agenda

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

All present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes

Scott Advent moved to approve the June 11, 2021, 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.

b. Approval of GST Plans

Sharon Bowen explained the plans before the Board. The current planning allocations were approved for Barriers Removal Employment Success (BRES), H-1B One Workforce Grant program, Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) Fiscal Year 2021, Partnership, Accountability, Training and Hope (PATH) Fiscal Year 2021, Trade Adjustment Assistance Fiscal Year 2021, and Job's for Michigan's Graduates Fiscal Year 2021. Pete Batistoni moved to approve the 2021 plans. Scott Turner supported the motion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for a vote.

All present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED.

c. Approval of GST Policy

JuliAnn Kuenzli explained the new GST WIOA Support Services 15-12 change 4. Dennis Collison moved to approve the GST Policy. Chuck Kunisch supported. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for a vote.

All present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED.

d. Approval of Legal Services for Clean Slate Project

Sharon Bowen explained the Request for Proposal (RFP) before the Board. Two responses were received: Legal Services of Eastern Michigan covering all GST counties except Shiawassee and Attorney Shoyneese N. Chiles PLLC for Shiawassee, Genesee, and Lapeer Counties. Sharon recommended that both responses so that GST would be able to work with both businesses for legal services. Pete Batistoni moved to approve both responders for Legal Services for the Clean Slate Project. Member Scott Advent supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for a vote.

All members present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED

e. Approval of 3Sixty Digital Marketing Renewal

Jessica Billau explained the marketing renewal before the Board and showed a 10-minute presentation video. Member Rafael Turner moved to approve 3Sixty Digital Marketing renewal. Member Scott Advent supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for a vote.

All members present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED

VI. Approval of Finance

Kelly Cook presented the Grant Budget & Expenditure report for June 1, 2021 – August 31, 2021. Scott Turner moved to approve the report. Tracie Jennings-Lewis supported the motion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for a vote.

All present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED.

VII. Update – See email from Jody Kerbyson

## VIII. Informational Items

FHEO Quarterly July 2021

Learn & Earn July and August 2021

Talent Talk Newsletter

- Jessica Billiau spoke on a few items:
  - Jessica shared that JulAnn Kuenzli has been awarded this year's GST Michigan Works Shining Star.
  - For Awards and Recognition, Jessica informed the Board of two JMG Specialists within GST's JMG program were recognized with awards. Ashley Fanson received the Covid Above and Beyond Award and Dominique Clay received the Living Our Values Award for Collaboration.
  - Jessica reported that GST has been working with Kappen Tree Service to provide braided grants to help train their apprentices.
  - Jessica shared that the Success Coaches within the BRN-The Connection have been working in partnership with the United Way and Dort Federal Credit Union to provide retention services to employers.
  - Since last Talent Talk 5,000 community members have utilized in-person services throughout all GST Service Centers.

## IX. Partner Updates

*Michigan Rehabilitation Services – Tracie Lewis-Jennings, Steve Peterson, Linda Watson*

- MRS staff are still working remotely. October 4, 2021 is the expected return to work date.
- Tracie reported that MRS has assisted 336 participants in finding employment.
- MRS has processed 772 applications.
- Steve shared that MRS has been running a few different events including First Friday's and PlayABLE Walk. MRS has been holding a First Friday's virtual event since the beginning of the pandemic from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend, this is not county specific. PlayABLE Walk will be taking place October 1, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at 701 McMorran Blvd., Port Huron.
- Linda shared that MRS is looking into renting an office space next to the Caro GST location.
- Linda discussed that October is National Disability Month. MRS is looking to connect with different agencies and partners to celebrate.

*Department of Health and Human Services – Sandi Mose*

- DHHS staff are primarily working remotely. About 20% of staff are working full-time in the office. Sandi reports that DHHS are having very few customers come into the lobby, that most services are being handled over the phone.
- Sandi shared that 31 DHHS staff from Genesee, Lapeer, Shiawassee, and Sandusky were sent to assist flood victims in Wayne/Washtenaw to process disaster relief applications.
- PATH virtual services will be ending shortly. DHHS staff are making calls to all participants to inform them of the changes, these calls should be completed by October 15, 2021. PATH will be requiring assessments again with these changes.

*Adult Education – Annette Schlaud*

- Annette informed those present that Lapeer ISD did not apply for the Special Programs Grant this year. This decision was made due to low enrollment. GISD is planning to apply and would be able to service anyone from the GST region.
- Annette reported that Region 6 had 1079 enrollments in the last year and statewide had 23,000 enrollments. She also shared that Region 6 reported students received 21% in gains over the last year while statewide, the gains were 11%.

- Leanne Panduren asked Annette if the district had noticed a significant number of kids not graduating in this last year. Annette report that Lapeer ISD did notice an uptick in those not completing their GED or High School Diploma and that it was partly due to Covid but more so due to mental health.

X. Board Member Comments/Other Business

Verona Terry – Job Corps

- Verona stated that Daniel Sheppard does plan to attend the December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Board meeting.

Rafael Turner – Consumers Energy

- Rafael stated that this year has been a difficult storm season and that across the country, particularly in the last seven years, there has been an increase in weather-related power outages. He assured that Consumers Energy does its very best to get power restored as quickly as possible when an outage occurs, and the citizens have been wonderful to the teams working.
- Tracie Jennings-Lewis asked Rafael what citizens who have disabilities or rely on power for life assisting technology should do in the case of a power outage. Rafael stated that citizens in this situation should register that information with their energy provider to potentially receive priority services.
- Rafael reminded members to practice safety and report any down powerlines to their energy provider.

Chuck Kunisch – Michigan Agricultural Commodities

- Chuck reports that Michigan's crops this year are yielding very well.
- The biggest struggle in the Agricultural Community right now is attraction of employees and retention. Chuck states that they are struggling to appeal to younger generations, and it has been difficult to find replacements for workers who are at retirement age.
- Linda Watson recommended the use of Farm Rehab Money to assist with some of these issues.

XI. Adjournment

Seeing there was no other business, Chair Panduren called the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Mose, Secretary

Annalisa King Przybysz, Support Staff



Sandi Mose, Secretary

12-10-21

Date