



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MINUTES
December 9th, 2022
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Chair Leanne Panduren.

Avendt, Scott	X	Kunisch, Chuck /Karen Wagner	X
Baird, Rick	X	Lewis-Jennings, Tracie / Steve Peterson	X
Batistoni, Peter	X	Mose, Sandi/ Jeff Cook	X
Brinkman, Mary	X	Nas, Paula	X
Collison, Dennis		Panduren, Leanne	X
Ernst, Matt / Jannie Martin	X	Rogers, Lisa	
Finkbeiner, Ann /Diane Ricevuto	X	Schlaud, Annette/ Mary Shelton-Weise	X
Fountain, Samantha	X	Schultz, Vicky/ Robert Esselink	X
Gaudet, Dan		Sheppard, Daniel/ Verona Terry	X
Hipes, Howard/Scott McDonald		Turner, Rafael	
Jacobs, Megan			

Roll-call vote conducted.

15 members were present. An X indicates present members.

Staff present were Jody Kerbyson, Sharon Bowen, Jessica Billiau, JulAnn Kuenzli, Wendy Paxton, Stephanie Polmanteer, Wanda Bigelow and Cindy Thornthwaite. Other attendees present included Nicholas Morehead and Kevin Knisely.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Panduren called for approval of the agenda.

Member Matt Ernst moved to approve the agenda.

Member Scott Avendt supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

III. Introductions

New Members/Guests:

Samantha Fountain – Economic Development Director, the City of Flint, representing Economic Development sector.

Robert Esselink – Program Manager, Catholic Charities, is replacing Vicky Shultz to representing Community Based Organization sector.

Kevin Knisely – Lapeer County Commissioner (Guest)

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. Action Items

a) Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Member Chuck Kunisch moved to approve minutes of September 9th, 2022, meeting. Member Tracie Lewis-Jennings supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

b) Approval of GSTMW Plans

Member Peter Batistoni moved to approve GSTMW Plans for PATH Employment Related Supportive Services, TANF Refugee Program, Demonstration Grant and WIOA Statewide Activities. Member Scott Awendt supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

c) Approval of RFP for Monitoring Services

Member Tracie Lewis-Jennings moved to approve Gaffney & Associates for Monitoring Services for \$34,000.00. Member Chuck Kunisch supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

d) Approval of GSTMW Local Policies

Member Matt Ernst moved to approve WIOA Supportive Services Policy PI15-12 change 6. Member Samantha Fountain supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

VI. Finance

Jody Kerbyson reviewed the Grant Budget and Expenditure reports for 7/1/2022 through 10/31/2022 with the members. Member Scott Awendt moved to approve expenditure reports for 7/1/2022 through 10/31/2022. Member Tracie Lewis-Jennings supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

VII. Agency Updates – Jody Kerbyson

- Conflict of Interest – Jody notified all members that Conflict-of-Interest forms were due for 2023.
- Jody announced that GST Michigan Works! will be hosting their Annual All-Staff Meeting on Friday, December 16th at the Lapeer Country Club. The meeting will include presentations by two trainers, team-building exercises and an award ceremony for staff members who have gone above and beyond in meeting the agency's customer service standards. Nominations for the awards are submitted by fellow staff and team members of GSTMW.

- GSTMW has recently had two visits from VIPs of the State. Susan Corbin, Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and Stephanie Beckhorn, Director of Workforce Development, Employment and Training Division and her team. The intention of the visits was to discuss Governor Whitmer’s overarching goals for the department and strategic areas of focus, as well as learning local points of pride and best practice. Director Corbin’s visit was to the Flint Job Center and Director Beckhorn and her team visited our Fenton Job Center.
- Wanda Bigelow, Apprenticeship Coordinator for GSTMW has been appointed as a member of the Michigan Apprenticeship Steering Committee, Inc. (MASCI). MASCI’s objective is to educate Michigan’s workforce and employer groups on the benefits of Registered Apprenticeships. It is an honor to have Wanda on the Committee representing GSTMW and the Michigan Works! system.
- Access for All is coming to Genesee County and GSTMW is partnering via our Apprenticeship Readiness Program in the shared goal of lighting the path for job seekers to start a career in Construction Trades. This partnership allows more training opportunities to more interested job seekers.
- Jody reported that GSTMW has had a record number of customers enroll into its many training programs. They have recently requested funding for additional training dollars, one specifically geared toward CDL certification of special populations and one to receive additional funding for all in-demand sectors. The state has also approached GSTMW about partnering on a USDOL Nursing Expansion grant submission.
- GSTMW Business Services department is wrapping up their 2022 Going Pro application deadline with 139 interested employers. Of these, 82 have applied to be a part of the program and 27 have already been submitted to the State for approval. If approved these employers will receive funding through GSTMW to provide training to their staff that will improve their employees’ skill set and the company productivity overall.
- Jody shared that due to recent unfortunate occurrences with disgruntled customers, the GSTMW staff has been and will continue to attend mental health first aid and other types of de-escalation training.
- With the new election of legislators across the region, Jody will begin meetings to educate them on the work that GSTMW does and how it impacts their constituents.

VIII. Informational Items

- a) Talent Talk- Jessie Billiau announced that the Career Quest Kick-Off event will be held on January 13th at Factory One in Flint.
- b) Board Acronyms
- c) Meeting Dates

IX. Partner Updates

- a) Michigan Rehabilitation Services – Tracie Lewis Jennings reported they have received 259 new applications throughout 2022; 202 of which were deemed eligible for assistance. She also reports that this last year has led to 80 enrollees obtaining gainful employment. Michigan Rehabilitation Services is pleased to announce that their NPower IT training program has already placed 2 students into internships within 4 months of starting the program. Tracie shared that they have recently been awarded funding to assist those afflicted by sickle cell disease.
- b) Department of Health & Human Services – Jeff Cook announced that the pandemic assistance end date of October 2022 is estimated to extend to May of 2023. He noted that those who are receiving Medicaid benefits will need to submit renewal forms by spring of 2023. Participants receiving benefits will need

to update their address and contact information with MDHHS to ensure a renewal packet will be received. He made known that with the pandemic assistance nearing its end, food assistance will be returning to “pre-pandemic” benefit amounts. This will likely affect many families receiving benefits which leads to the importance of submitting renewal information. The department has been notifying beneficiaries as the cutoff date approaches. With the updates that will be taking place at MDHHS they are offering “limited term” employment opportunities. Listings can be found at www.Michigan.gov.

- c) Adult Education – Mary Shelton-Wiese shared that since their program start date of July 1st, 2022, Region 6 has had 549 enrollments; of that, 90 have already completed their GED in the first quarter. They are now reporting a 49.5% employment rate for students who have successfully completed their programs. She included that the Family Literacy Center has also had 52 students receive their GED this year.

X. Board Member Comments/Other Business

- Samantha Fountain, Economic Development Director of the City of Flint announced that they are inviting Flint residents who are interested in serving on Flint’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community Advisory Committee to apply for consideration. The committee’s purpose is to help evaluate grant proposals and to share knowledge on where additional funding may be needed within the community.

XI. Adjournment

Seeing there was no other business, Chair Panduren called the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Mose, Secretary
Stephanie Polmanteer, Administrative Specialist

 

Sandi Mose, Secretary Date