



**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
MINUTES  
December 8, 2023  
9:30 A.M.**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Chair Leanne Panduren.

Avendt, Scott	X	Kunisch, Chuck	X
Baird, Rick	X	Lewis, Seth/ <b>Trevor Schultz</b>	X
Batistoni, Pete	X	<b>Lewis-Jennings, Tracie/Steve</b>	X
Brinkman, Mary		<b>Mose, Sandi/Jeff Cook</b>	X
Collison, Dennis		Nas, Paula	X
Ernst, Matt/Jannie Kilpatrick		Panduren, Leanne	X
Esselink, Robert		Rogers, Lisa	X
Finkbeiner, Ann/Diane Ricevuto		<b>Schlaud, Annette/ Mary Shelton</b>	X
Fountain, Samantha		Sheppard, Daniel/ <b>Verona Terry</b>	X
Gaudet, Dan / Zach Desrochers		Turner, Rafael	
Hipes, Howard/Scott McDonald			

12 members were present. An X indicates present members.

Staff present were Jody Kerbyson, Sharon Bowen, Kelly Cook, Jessica Billiau, JulAnn Kuenzli, Wanda Bigelow, Cindy Thornthwaite, Sheila Rock, Wendy Paxton and Stephanie Polmanteer. Other attendees present included: James Avery, Mary Babcock, Roger Ballard, Ellen Ellenburg, Gary Howell, Bill Lutz, John Moody, Marlene Webster and Tom Young.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Panduren called for approval of the agenda. Member Tracie Lewis-Jennings moved to approve the agenda. Member Annette Schlaud supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

**MOTION PASSED**

**III. Introductions**

Members, staff, and other attendees introduced themselves.

**IV. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**V. Action Items**

**a. Approval of minutes from previous meeting on September 8, 2023**

Member Pete Batistoni moved to approve the September 8, 2023 minutes. Member Lisa Rogers 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 Tracie Lewis-Jennings moved to approve the GSTMW plans as presented for: Food Assistance Employment and Training Plus; Partnership, Accountability, Training and Hope (PATH) Supportive Services; and National Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) Auto-Related Employment Recovery Project. Member Annette Schlaud supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

**c. Approval of Monitoring Services Renewal (2<sup>nd</sup> year)**

Member Pete Batistoni moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> year renewal for Gaffney & Associates monitoring services as presented. Member Scott Awendt supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

**d. Approval of CEAC Roster**

Member Lisa Rogers moved to approve the CEAC roster with the addition of Tracie Lewis-Jennings. Member Scott Awendt supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

**e. Approval of GSTMW Local Policies**

Member Lisa Rogers moved to approve the WIOA Supportive Services Policy as presented. Member Scott Awendt supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

**VI. Finance**

Kelly Cook reviewed the budget and expenditure report in the packet for 7/1/2023 – 10/31/2023 with the members. Member Tracie Lewis-Jennings moved to approve the budget and expenditure reports. Member Verona Terry supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote. All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

**VII. Updates – Jody Kerbyson**

Jody provided the board with updates about the Wagner-Peyser Employment Services rule that will take effect in July, 2025. Michigan, Massachusetts, and Colorado will be allowed to continue to provide services with local merit staff. She also updated the board on federal legislation that has been introduced regarding the Workforce Pell Act and some highlights from the proposed bipartisan legislation. There is also a bipartisan WIOA reauthorization bill that is rumored to be close to release. Kerbyson provided an update on the latest Going PRO Talent Fund submissions and stated that word about who will be funded should be released around the holidays. Job seekers continue to be enrolled in training and career services.

Jerome Lewis is set to retire at the end of the year and a potluck is being held to honor his 39 years with the agency.

All GST Michigan Works! Service Center locations will be closed on January 12, 2024, for the annual All-Staff training.

## VIII. Informational Items

- Job Corp CRC Meeting invitation was attached to the agenda
- Talent Talk handouts were provided at the meeting
- Board Acronyms were attached to the agenda
- Meeting Dates were attached to the agenda

## IX. Partner Updates

### a. **Tracie Lewis-Jennings, MRS:**

Tracie reported that since the start of their fiscal year in October 2023, they are now serving 1,600 individuals and have assisted 195 participants in gaining employment. She shared that they have received additional funding through the DIF (Disability Innovation Fund) Program that is being used to help fund their Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics or Medicine (STEMM)-Up Program. Students and job seeking adults can take part in the program. This program is operated in partnership with Michigan State University and Southern Michigan University. It ends with an internship in their chosen field within the program. Tracie noted that MRS can also assist employers with ergonomic needs or staff accommodations in the workplace. They have the resources to send occupational therapists on site who can assist staff members in setting up a workspace that fits their needs.

### b. **Sandi Mose, DHHS:**

Sandi announced that DHHS started their renewal process in June for approximately three million Medicaid participants. Thirty percent of the open accounts have been closed due to the participants' failure to submit the renewal packets required for continued benefits. She notes there has been a 124% increase in application submissions following the lack of renewals. Sandi shared that the renewal process takes significantly less time than the application process therefore responding to correspondence regarding renewal is highly recommended. A customer is welcome to ask for a supervisor while working with a representative if they feel they are being underserved. It is suggested that customers request a call-back through the telephone service line as opposed to waiting in a caller que. Callbacks are required to be made the same day.

### c. **Annette Schlaud, Adult Education:**

Annette mentioned that they had recently applied for the 23+ Grant. The grant serves as supplemental funding for students who are at least 23 years of age and are working to obtain their high school diploma. A discussion followed regarding the schooling process for those students. It was noted that more students are opting to take in-person classes as opposed to the on-line course options.

## X. Board Member Comments/Other Business

- Verona Terry with Job Corps shared that they have several students in their programs who are now working at Hurley Hospital. She also extended an invitation to all members to join Job Corps' CRC quarterly meeting.
- Sharon Bowen mentioned that after collaborating with the UIA, they have agreed to take part in a community outreach event in providing "Pop-up" offices within the GST Michigan Works! service centers. These events are to help claimants navigate the process of applying for unemployment benefits as well as alleviate any issues that people are having receiving their payments. The event has shown to be beneficial for both GSTMW staff and customers.
- Jessica Billiau brought to the attention of members that the quarterly Talent Talk now has a QR code located on the back cover for easy access to the Employer Showcase on the website. Each month, an employer in the region is chosen to have a special highlight video created to help in advertising what they do, how they impact the region and the opportunities available for local job seekers.
- Tom Young shared his enthusiasm for the GSTMW website and the number of available programs for both employers and job seekers. He described the site as being both informative and user friendly.

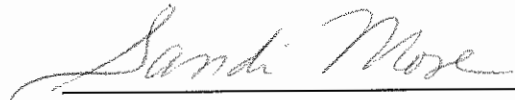
XI. Adjournment

Seeing there was no other business, Chair Panduren called the meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Mose, Secretary

Stephanie Polmanteer, Administrative Specialist

 3-8-2024  
Sandi Mose, Secretary Date