



**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MINUTES
March 8, 2024
9:30 A.M.**

I. Call to Order

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

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

Sixteen members were present. An X indicates present members.

Staff present were Jody Kerbyson, Sharon Bowen, Kelly Cook, Jessica Billiau, JulAnn Kuenzli, Cindy Thornthwaite, Sheila Rock, Wendy Paxton and Stephanie Polmanteer. Other attendees present included: Nicholas Morehead, James Avery, Mary Babcock, Roger Ballard, Greg Brodeur, Ellen Ellenburg, Bill Lutz and John Moody.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Panduren called for approval of the agenda. Member Matt Ernst moved to approve the agenda. Member Dennis Collison 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. Election of Officers:

- Chair – Leanne Panduren
- Vice Chair – Matt Ernst
- Secretary – Sandi Mose

Member Pete Batistoni moved to re-elect the officers as slated. Member Dan Gaudet supported the motion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

b. Approval of minutes from previous meeting on December 8, 2023

Member Matt Ernst moved to approve the December 8, 2023 minutes. Member Lisa Rogers supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

c. Approval to appoint Mary Shelton to the CEAC to represent the Workforce Development Board. Mary Shelton will replace Annette Schlaud who is retiring from the Lapeer ISD.

Member Dennis Collison moved to appoint Mary Shelton to the CEAC. Member Samantha Fountain supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for a vote.

All members present vote AYE.

MOTION PASSED

d. Approval of GSTMW Plans

Member Dan Gaudet moved to approve the GSTMW plans as presented for: Food Assistance Employment and Training Plus (FAE&T); Going PRO Cycle 1 PY 2024; Young Professionals Grant; Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment Program (RESEA); Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) Program, and EV Jobs Academy. Member Pete Batistoni supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

e. Approval of GSTMW Local Policies

Member Dennis Collison moved to approve the required local policies as presented for:

- Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Requirements – PI 18-07 change 2, updated February 1, 2024.
- Discrimination Complaint Processing Procedures and Policy – PI 18-08 change 1, updated February 1, 2024.
- Grievance and Complaint Policy – PI 21-02 change 2, updated February 1, 2024.
- WIOA Layoff Aversion Strategies and Policy Guidelines for Incumbent Worker Training Programs – PI 15-16 change 3, updated February 1, 2024.
- Rapid Response Process and Procedures for Responding to Notifications of Plant Closings and Mass Layoffs and Lay off Aversion – PI 15-17 change 5, updated February 1, 2024.

Member Lisa Rogers supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

VI. Finance

Kelly Cook reviewed the budget and expenditure report in the packet for July 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024 with the members. Member Matt Ernst moved to approve the budget and expenditure reports. Member Mary Shelton supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

VII. Updates – Jody Kerbyson

Kerbyson gave her updates for the quarter. In December, a retirement luncheon was held in the Marlette office for longtime EO Officer, Jerome Lewis. It was a nice day with friends and family in attendance. The annual All-Staff meeting was held with training topics, including networking skills and strategic plan updates. The Hope Network also presented suicide awareness and detection. Kerbyson discussed the need for board members to advocate on behalf of Michigan Works! against some of the proposed changes to WIOA in a new reauthorization bill that has been proposed that would limit flexibility at the local level regarding training requirements, the Governor's reserve, and possible redesignation of regions. She thanked those who took the time to help by contacting members of Congress via the Michigan Works! Association's streamlined process. Kerbyson and Billiau were invited to present at the Lapeer Economic Club luncheon in February regarding workforce issues and the GST Michigan Works! role in the community. Jody was invited to tour Memorial Healthcare's Childcare Academy in Owosso and was able to see the great work taking place there. GST and Memorial are doing a lot of work around building apprenticeships throughout the organization, most recently in the childcare industry.

Kerbyson announced that the City of Flint Police Department was the recipient of this year's Impact Award. GST Michigan Works! is excited to showcase the partnership that has been built between the staff at the Fenton Service Center and the City of Flint PD. GST's Business Solutions team was able to successfully bring \$3.8 million back to the region in the form of Going PRO Talent Fund awards. This puts GST's success third in the state by dollar value of awards. Kerbyson mentioned that next week is Legislative Day in Lansing where Billiau, Bowen and Chair Panduren will join her to meet with legislators to keep them abreast of what's happening in their local communities. On hand, they will have data and success stories to share.

VIII. Informational Items

- Talent Talk handouts were provided at the meeting.
- Board Acronyms were attached to the agenda.
- 2024 Meeting Dates were attached to the agenda.
- Job Corp CRC Meeting invitation was attached to the agenda.

IX. Partner Updates

a. **Tracie Lewis-Jennings, MRS:** No available updates.

b. **Sandi Mose, DHHS:**

The DHHS Medicaid redeterminations are still taking place. At the end of the public health emergency, the DHHS had a total of 3.1 million cases to review. New Medicaid applications have increased by 179% due to the lack of redetermination packets being submitted and having to reapply. There was emphasis on recipients needing to fill out their redetermination packets to avoid loss of coverage.

c. Mary Shelton, Adult Education:

Shelton shared a report with members outlining how the region's numbers compared to the State for FY July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. It illustrated that of the 710 GED's/HSE's earned statewide, 137 (20%) were obtained in Region 6. The GED test consists of four subjects: Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Math. Nationally, Math is the most challenging. Of the students who have one test remaining, 88% are still working to complete their math test. The report also shows that 40% of those enrolled in adult education in the region are under the age of 24 years old. This allows the region to provide additional support to those students through the JMG program.

d. Verona Terry, Job Corps:

Job Corps is celebrating its 60th anniversary and will open the doors to all the centers across the country for a public event to introduce themselves and to showcase the opportunities available through their programs. Also, this quarterly CRC meeting will be held at the McLaren Hospitality House on Thursday, March 14th.

X. Board Member Comments/Other Business

- Jessie Billiau discussed the showcase employer for March's Talent Talk issue and highlighted the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) programs. Jessie also shared the successes of the UIA "Pop Ups" that have been taking place at the GSTMW locations across the region to assist claimants in person. Recently, GSTMW rolled out a customer service survey and it has been receiving great responses from customers. Career exploration planning is in full swing. The GSTMW 2024 MiCareerQuest event is scheduled for October 23rd. The planning committee is working to remove barriers for more rural counties to attend career exploration events. The agencies job fairs have been very successful.
- Rafael Turner with Consumers Energy emphasized the importance of safety during storm clean-up and to avoid downed lines or blocking roadways while crews tend to the affected areas. Consumers Energy is currently creating an AI program to generate power restoration times.
- Chuck Kunisch mentioned that it is very difficult finding labor in farming, since it now requires people with high-tech skills. He also mentioned that farm equipment is on the road and to be patient if you are behind those driving it.

XI. Adjournment

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

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



Sandi Mose, Secretary

6/17/2024

Date