



**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MINUTES
September 13, 2024**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 am by Chair Leanne Panduren.

Avendt, Scott		Lewis-Jennings, Tracie / Steve Peterson	X
Baird, Rick		Mose, Sandi / Jeff Cook	X
Batistoni, Pete	X	Mosier, Brianna / Amy Watts	X
Collison, Dennis	X	Nas, Paula	X
Ernst, Matt / Correen Zahn		Panduren, Leanne	X
Gasso, Rochelle/ Dennis Weinand		Prill, Yvonne/Diane Ricevuto	X
Gaudet, Dan / Zach Desrochers		Rogers, Lisa	
Hipes, Howard / Scott McDonald	X	Shelton, Mary / Meredith Donahue	X
Kappen, Jason / Duston Fenner	X	Sheppard, Daniel / Verona Terry	X
Kunisch, Chuck		Turner, Rafael	X
Lewis, Seth / Trevor Schultz	X		

Fourteen members were present. An X indicates present members.

Staff present were Jody Kerbyson, Sharon Bowen, Kelly Cook, JulAnn Kuenzli, Wendy Paxton, Cindy Thornthwaite, Sheila Rock and Stephanie Polmanteer. Other attendees present included: Sam Moore, Carrie Powell-Stockley, James Avery, Roger Ballard, Ellen Ellenburg, Brad Haggadone, Gary Howell, Bill Lutz, John Moody, Marlene Webster, and Tom Young.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Panduren called for approval of the agenda. Member Yvonne Prill 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. **Approval of minutes of previous meeting on June 14, 2024 (attached)**

Member Tracie Lewis-Jennings moved to approve the June 14, 2024 minutes. Member Sandi Mose supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

b. **Approval of GSTMW Plans (attached)**

Member Pete Batistoni moved to approve GSTMW plans as presented for:

WIOA Four Year Regional and Local Plans for PYs 2024 through 2027; Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) Plus PI-23-26 change 2; Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) Plus PI 24-24; Going PRO Cycle 2 FY 2024; Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG); Michigan Regional Outreach, Awareness, and Recognition (MiROAR); Michigan's Inclusive Training, Technology, and Equity Network (MITTEN); Greater Flint Health Coalition (GFHC) Grant; Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T); Partnership, Accountability, Training and Hope (PATH); Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

Member Howard Hipes supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

c. **Approval of GSTMW Local Policies (attached)**

Member Pete Batistoni moved to approve the required local policies as presented for:

- Discrimination Complaint Processing Procedures and Policy
PI 18-08 Change 2, updated June 1, 2024
- On-The-Job Training Policy
PI 15-13 Change 9, updated September 1, 2024

Member Howard Hipes supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion. Chair Panduren called for a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

VI. Financial Report

Kelly Cook reviewed the expenditure reports in the packet with the members. Member Tracie Lewis-Jennings moved to approve expenditure reports. Member Sandi Mose 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 shared that GSTMW's Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) program staff received several awards this year at the Youth Solutions Annual Summer Summit conference. The conference is a three-day professional development event that brings together JMG teams from across the state to share their experiences, successes and provide networking opportunities throughout the program. This year, GSTMW had several staff members receive awards recognizing their achievements as performance leaders.

GSTMW received several Virtual Reality (VR) headsets just before the end of the 2023-2024 school year and are excited to introduce them to schools and career centers throughout the region this year. Each headset is equipped with career exploration software through the manufacturer, Transfr. The software allows users to have a VR experience in several career simulations: some even available in Spanish. The manufacturer of the headsets selected GSTMW to try a new software that would be used as part of a construction pre-employment program. The agency worked with Job Corps in selecting 9 of their students to take part in the program. The students were also enrolled into GSTMW's Young Professionals program which allowed them to take their training into an on-the-job work experience. The two-week program resulted in 5 of the 9 students beginning a union apprenticeship program. The agency is working hard to market the VR headsets in its agencies to both adult jobseekers and in-school youth alike. The headsets will be spotlighted at this years MiCareerQuest event in October, giving opportunities to students across the region.

The agency partnered with U of M – Flint, in applying for multiple grants, including Michigan's Inclusive Training, Technology and Equity Network (MITTEN) grant. With funding received the agency plans to work with U of M, Flint, in expanding and developing new computer classes for students and workshops for community members.

Kerbyson reported that the Greater Flint Health Coalition partnered with GSTMW to assist them in obtaining Barrier Removal Employment Success (BRES) funding. The funding will be used throughout the agency's employment programs. The state will also be awarding additional Young Professionals funding to the agency to facilitate those agency programs as well.

Discussions with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) regarding Project-Grit are still ongoing. However, there is no new information to be given at this time.

The GSTMW MiCareerQuest event will take place on October 23rd at the Dort Financial Center in Flint. The agency has been communicating with local schools to determine how many students will be attending this year. She extended an invitation to all board members to come and observe the event.

This year's annual Michigan Works Association Conference took place in Traverse City on September 8th – 10th. The conference provided informative sessions with recognized speakers as

well as opportunities for the states agencies to collaborate. Many GSTMW staff members attended the event along with a few board members.

VIII. Informational Items

- a) *Talent Talk* booklets were available at meeting
- b) Board acronyms were included in the agenda
- c) 2024 Meeting dates were included in the agenda
- d) 2025 Meeting dates included in the agenda

IX. Partner Updates

- a) Michigan Rehabilitation Services – Tracie Lewis-Jennings reported that coming into the close of the program year they have had 1,500 cases, of which 584 individuals have obtained employment surpassing their goal of 121%. Over the summer, MRS worked with 205 youth throughout all of their counties in work-based learning programs. Tracie shared that MRS is available for disabled individuals to gain professional development skills for both youth and adults. They recently have been in discussion with McClaren in Huron and Tuscola Counties to create assistance for those in cardiac rehabilitation.
- b) Department of Health & Human Services – Sandi Mose shared that the department’s heat and electricity assistance was paused back in June. The new fiscal year will be starting in October, and she hopes they will be able to continue assistance thereafter.
- c) Adult Education – Mary Shelton provided a handout to board members explaining the awards education providers receive from the State. She reported that the region has been awarded funding for basic literacy, general education development (GED), high school equivalency (HSE), and English as a second language. The regions Intermediate School Districts (ISD) and colleges can also be awarded funding through 107 and 107A. The 107A grant is new and it’s funding allows education providers to provide English as a second language (ESL) service. The Tuscola ISD was awarded 107A funding this year and is using it to provide ESL services. Prior to this, the Family Literacy Center (FLC) and Mott Community College were the only education providers that were able to provide ESL services in the region. Shelton reported that the FLC has had 47 GED’s obtained in this calendar year, with a goal of 75 before the end of the calendar year. GED’s consist of 4 subjects, math, science, language arts and social studies; 88% of students who have one test remaining still need to complete the math portion of the program. FLC has attended conferences to learn new teaching techniques in hopes of helping students in the subject.
- d) Job Corp – Verona Terry shared that Job Corps’ WIOA partnership with MRS sparked a collaboration between the two agencies, which included all three Michigan Job Corps locations. Terry mentioned that the center recently had an open house, the campus opened their doors to the public to help provide insight on the services and benefits the center has for the community. Terry reported that the Flint area Job Corps center has undergone several audits regarding the security on campus to ensure the safety of all the staff and students on campus. She expressed that safety is a top priority for the center as they do have students housed onsite

and want everyone to feel safe while on campus. Terry extended an invitation to the board members for the center's next Community Relations Council (CRC) meeting. The meeting usually brings in 65-75 organizations who share information about their progress in the last quarter as well as the services, programs they offer.

X. Board Member Comments/Other Business

A discussion among members followed the meeting about the variety of options young people have available for secondary education and vocational training.

XI. Adjournment

Seeing there was no other business, Chair Panduren called the meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

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


Sandi Mose, Secretary


Date

Supported by the State of Michigan. GSTMW materials and programs paid for with State 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.