



**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MINUTES
June 13th, 2025**

I. Call to Order

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

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

Sixteen members were present. An X indicates present members.

Staff present were Jody Kerbyson, Sharon Bowen, Kelly Cook, Jessica Billiau, JulAnn Kuenzli, Wendy Paxton, Joleen Chrivia, Cindy Thornthwaite, Sheila Rock, Greg Rancour and Stephanie Polmanteer. Other attendees present included: James Avery, Mary Babcock, Roger Ballard, Brad Haggadone, Gary Howell, Matthew Koch, Bill Lutz, John Moody, Nicholas Morehead, Sam Moore, and Linda Watson.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Panduren called for approval of the agenda. Member Dennis Collison moved to approve the agenda. Member Pete Batistoni supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a 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 the minutes from the previous meeting on March 14th, 2025**

Member Chuck Kunisch moved to approve the meeting minutes. Member Sandi Mose supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

b) **Approval of GSTMWI Plans**

Sharon Bowen presented the following GSTMWI plans:

Wagner-Peyser Employment Services (ES), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Allocations, WIOA Statewide Activities for Customer Relationship Management Systems, Capacity Building and Professional Development (CBPD), Career Event Funding, Infrastructure Agreements, Michigan Rural Enhanced Access to Careers in Healthcare (MIREACH) 3.0, Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment Program (RESEA), WIOA Statewide Activities, and Talent & Growth Barrier Removal Initiative. Member Pete Batistoni moved to approve the plans as presented. Member Scott Avendt supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

c) **Approval of the updated GSTMWI Local Policy**

JulAnn Kuenzli presented the following updated policy:

WIOA Follow Up Policy: PI 18-05 Change 1 – Updated 4-1-2025. Member Yvonne Prill moved to approve the policy update as presented. Member Lisa Rogers supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

d) **Approval of the updated Demand Occupations**

JulAnn Kuenzli presented the updated Demand Occupations. Member Mary Shelton moved to approve the demand occupations as presented. Member Yvonne Prill supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

e) **Approval of the 3Sixty Interactive digital marketing contract**

Jessica Billiau presented the 3Sixty Interactive digital marketing contract. Member Mary Shelton moved to approve the contract as presented. Member Yvonne Prill supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

f) **Approval of the updated Workforce Development Board By-Laws**

Jody Kerbyson presented the updated Workforce Development Board By-Laws. Member Jason Kappen motioned to approve the By-Laws as presented. Member Howard Hipes supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

g) Approval of the funding of subcontractors and vendors

Kelly Cook presented the funding of subcontractors and vendors. Member Dennis Collison motioned to approve the funding as presented. Member Yvonne Prill supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE except Mary Shelton who abstained due to her affiliation with the Family Literacy Center. Sandi Mose due to her position on the Board that serves the Greater Flint Coalition. Rafael Turner abstained due to his positions on the Boards that serve the Greater Flint Health Coalition and the Genesee Intermediate School District.

MOTION PASSED

VI. Finance

a) Approval of the Grant Budget & Expenditure Report for July 1st, 2024 – April 30th, 2025

Kelly Cook presented the report. Member Dennis Collison motioned to approve the report as presented. Member Jason Kappen supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

b) Approval of the agency's initial 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget, July 1st, 2025 – June 30th, 2026

Kelly Cook presented the budget. Member Chuck Kunisch motioned to approve the budget as presented. Member Howard Hipes supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

VII. Agency Updates

Jody Kerbyson recently provided an update on the University of Michigan-Flint's Flint Educates Rural Nurses (FERN) program. During the last Board meeting, she had previously noted that GSTMWI would allow space in their Marlette office for the university to conduct in-person classes for the program. However, this arrangement did not materialize as initially hoped. Consequently, the first semester of the program will take place in Flint, and it has reached full capacity, with the second semester expected to follow suit.

In late March, Jody attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) meeting in Washington D.C. This annual gathering serves as a collaboration platform for Workforce Boards from across the nation. Jody observed that while each Board generates numerous valuable ideas, Michigan consistently appears to be at the forefront regarding strategies aimed at supporting its communities.

In mid-April, Fessler & Bowman received the GSTMWI Impact Award for their engagement with Job Corps students, providing them with paid work experience opportunities through one of the agency's youth programs. The initiative was recognized as a success and highlighted in the Impact Award presentation. This achievement garnered the interest of the National Skills Coalition's Business Leaders United who subsequently invited Jody and a representative from Fessler & Bowman to participate in a "fly-in" in September to Washington D.C. to share the impact that employer partnerships have on the workforce system.

In May, Jody participated in the annual Flint and Genesee Regional Leadership Council meeting through the Flint & Genesee Group. This year, members enjoyed a guided bus tour through Flint and Genesee County, stopping at various locations where leaders shared insights about their work and the impact of their organizations.

On May 9th, GSTMWI celebrated the graduation ceremony of its Apprenticeship Readiness Training (ART) program. Remarkably, this graduating class saw all participants secure employment following their training. The program is actively exploring avenues to secure continued funding to sustain its success. To date, the ART program has successfully placed over 200 participants into full-time employment, highlighting its significant role in workforce development in the region.

Jody recently attended the Governor's Road Ahead event at Kettering University, where the Governor shared her vision for Michigan's economic future, specifically in Genesee County. This event provided insights into the strategic initiatives aimed at fostering growth and innovation across the state and her hopes for the remainder of her time in office.

Last week, Jody attended the Impact Genesee Summit. Sponsored by the University of Michigan-Flint and the Genesee County Commission. The summit aimed to raise awareness about potential opportunities that could benefit the region in the future. The meeting featured several keynote speakers who shared their experiences and emphasized how collaborative efforts could lead to positive outcomes for the area.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Talent Solutions Annual Meeting took place earlier this week in Lansing. Jody attended the meeting and found it to be informative, as it highlighted the state's economic partnerships and strategies for enhancing talent.

Jody, along with leaders from the agency's apprenticeship program, met with the Mass Transit Authority (MTA) to discuss the potential for creating a training program at their location. This program would focus on training both new and existing diesel mechanics in the areas of hydrogen and electric vehicle (EV) technology, helping to support the evolution and growth of their fleet.

VIII. Informational Items

- a) *Talent Talk* (was available at the meeting)
- b) MDHHS Diaper Assistance Program (was attached to the agenda)
- c) Board Acronyms (was attached to the agenda)
- d) Board Roster (was attached to the agenda)
- e) 2025 Meeting Dates (was attached to the agenda)

IX. Partner Updates

a) **Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)**

Linda Watson announced that, despite recent changes in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I), MRS's funding remains secure, allowing them to continue providing services for individuals with disabilities. Since October 1st, 2024, the district has served 2,843 customers, with 480 individuals successfully placed into employment.

Linda explained that a significant portion of the agency operates under the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration, which includes the Department of Education. This allows them to assist many students in participating in summer work experiences and provide funding for employment coaching.

Linda also noted an increase in the number of customers, despite a reduction in staffing, and mentioned that they are actively seeking to fill multiple positions in their region. Additionally, the agency plans to host another National Disability Awareness event this October. Last year's event was well received, but due to limited space at their location, they are currently looking for an alternative venue for this year's gathering.

b) Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS)

Sandi Mose provided additional information regarding the MDHHS Diaper Assistance Program flyer that was included in the board meeting agenda packet. This new program aims to help families who are receiving services from MDHHS by providing diapers and cream for their children.

c) Adult Education

Mary Shelton shared that Adult Education Programs throughout the state are actively seeking funding at the state level for future initiatives. Despite these efforts, these programs continue to receive federal funding to help maintain their current offerings. Statewide, \$15.1 million is received, which is an average of \$554/student per year.

Mary reported that the current student enrollment in the state primarily includes individuals aged 25 to 44 years. However, this trend differs from the Family Literacy Center's typical age demographic, where over 50% of enrollees are under 24 years old.

Additionally, Mary noted that the Family Literacy Center serves five counties through its partnership with GSTMWI, including Lapeer, Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac, and Shiawassee counties. In these areas, the center has successfully helped 75 students obtain their General Education Development (GED) credentials since the start of the program year on July 1, 2024.

d) Job Corps

No representative present to provide updates.

X. Comments/Other Business

Jody Kerbyson mentioned that Job Corps is experiencing a hardship, and partners of the agency are currently working to provide assistance for both Job Corps students and staff members.

Rafael Turner, with Consumers Energy, mentioned that the summer season is an active time for home improvement projects and reminded attendees to take the proper precautions before breaking ground around the home. He also noted to be mindful of forestry crews maintaining power lines and roadway clearances by providing them space when on the roadways.

Governing Board member and Genesee County Commissioner, James Avery, mentioned that Workforce Development Board member, Rafael Turner has recently been nominated to serve on the Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) Board. Commissioner Avery noted that it would be a great addition to the community for him to serve as a board member.

XI. Adjournment

Seeing there was no other business, Chair Panduren called the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 12th, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

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



Leanne Panduren, Chair

9/12/25
Date