



**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 12th, 2025; 9:30 A.M.**

I. Call to Order

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

Avendt, Scott		Mose, Sandi / Jeff Cook	X
Baird, Rick	X	Mosier, Brianna / Amy Watts	X
Batistoni, Pete	X	Nas, Paula	
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 Harris	X
Hipes, Howard / John Hartwell	XX	Sheppard, Daniel / Verona Terry	X
Kappen, Jason / Duston Fenner	X	Turner, Rafael	X
Kunisch, Chuck	X	Zahn, Correen / Carol Brozowski	X
Lewis-Jennings, Tracie / Steve Peterson - Linda Watson			

Seventeen members were present. An X indicates present members.

Staff present were Jody Kerbyson, Sharon Bowen, Kelly Cook, Jessica Billiau, JulAnn Kuenzli, Cindy Thornthwaite, and Stephanie Polmanteer. Other attendees present included: Sam Moore, Nicholas Morehead, James Avery, Roger Ballard, Brad Haggadone, Gary Howell, Sami Khoury, Matthew Koch, Bill Lutz, and John Moody.

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 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 June 13th, 2025**

Member Mary Shelton moved to approve the meeting minutes. Member Yvonne Prill supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

b. **Approval of GSTMW! Plans**

Sharon Bowen presented the following GSTMW! plans:

• Going Pro Talent Fund Cycle 2 • Michigan Works! Association (MWA) Apprenticeship Success Coordinators (ASCs) and MWA Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) Group Sponsor and Intermediary Functions • Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) Plus Expansion • Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG) • Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) • Partnership, Accountability, Training and Hope (PATH) • Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) • Food Assistance Employment Training (FAE&T) Plus • National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) • The Center for Construction Research & Training (CPWR) Funding • National Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) • Regional Innovation Project Grant.

Member Pete Batistoni moved to approve the plans as presented. Member Howard Hipes supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

VI. Finance

a. **Approval of the Final Agency Grant Budget and Expenditure Report for July 1st, 2024 – June 30th, 2025**

Kelly Cook reviewed the report with the members. Member Howard Hipes moved to approve the reports as presented. Member Dennis Collison supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

b. **Approval of the Agency Grant Budget and Expenditure Report for July 1st, 2025 – July 31st, 2025**

Kelly Cook reviewed the report for July 1st, 2025 – July 31st, 2025 with the members. Member Yvonne Prill moved to approve the reports as presented. Member Pete Batistoni supported the motion. Chair Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

VII. Agency Updates

Jody Kerbyson discussed the recently proposed federal and state budgets. She emphasized the importance of highlighting the agency's services and programs to maintain funding essential for continuing the work. Jody also addressed potential upcoming barriers, particularly the requirement

for customers to provide proof of citizenship before receiving services. This requirement raises concerns about upholding high service standards for the agency's customers.

In June, the Mass Transit Authority (MTA) celebrated the opening of the J. Michael Zelley Training and Development Center. GSTMW! and MTA have developed a strong partnership and are currently working on an apprenticeship program to upskill diesel mechanics to service MTA's growing hydrogen-powered fleet.

Over the summer, GSTMW! welcomed an intern from Michigan State University (MSU) who participated in the Flintern program for social sciences. The intern had the opportunity to work in both the Business Services Department and the Human Resources Department at GSTMW!'s Flint Administration Office.

Jody provided an update on a recent grant opportunity provided by the Governor's Workforce Board. The Regional Innovation Grant intends to provide funding for the collaborative efforts between Michigan Works! regions for innovative projects aimed at helping meet the Governor's workforce goals. GST Michigan Works! is partnering with Macomb-St. Clair Michigan Works!, Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!, and Region 7B Michigan Works!. The proposal included apprenticeship and apprenticeship readiness programs, virtual career exploration, expanding digital literacy, and sessions highlighting Artificial Intelligence (AI) for area businesses.

The agency hosted the "Race to Talent" event at its Marlette location, which celebrated several rural healthcare facilities in the region that have built apprenticeship programs, including Aspire Healthcare, Scheurer Health, and Memorial Health Care.

Next week, Jody will visit Washington, DC, sponsored by the National Skills Coalition's Business Leaders United, to highlight workforce development across the country and the importance of employer voice and partnerships. The goal of the meeting is to demonstrate how these collaborative efforts align with the federal government's objectives for building a stronger workforce nationwide. Jody will be accompanied by Andrea Alvarez from Fessler & Bowman, who has established a strong partnership with GSTMW through its apprenticeship program and various career-building initiatives.

Recently, Jody attended an executive breakfast to celebrate Northgate, who received the General Motors Supplier of the Year Award for its "Be Ready" program. This program focuses on professional development and personal enrichment, helping employees gain career readiness skills, whether with the company or by moving on to greater opportunities. During the event, Northgate honored GSTMW! with the "Power Partner Award" as well as one of the agency's Business Solutions Professionals for their outstanding partnership in these efforts.

Jessica Billiau announced that the MiCareerQuest™ event is quickly approaching. It will take place on October 22nd, 2025, at the Dort Federal Event Center. She shared that the event has successfully met its funding goals, allowing it to continue its mission of supporting regional career exploration events as it has done in the past. Jessica announced that 3,600 students from over 40 school districts have been invited to attend. While the event is primarily geared toward high school students, it is up to the individual school districts to decide which grades will participate.

Additionally, Jessica mentioned that the latest issue of *Talent Talk* highlights the success stories of many young people in the region. It was discussed that sharing these *Talent Talk* issues with local businesses is one of the best ways to raise awareness about what the agency can achieve in supporting the youth and community members of the region.

VIII. Informational Items

- a) *Talent Talk* (was available at the meeting)
- b) Board Acronyms (was attached to the agenda)
- c) Board Roster (was attached to the agenda)
- d) 2025 Meeting dates (was attached to the agenda)
- e) 2026 Meeting dates (was attached to the agenda)

IX. Partner Updates

a) Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)

Tracie Lewis-Jennings was unable to attend the meeting; however, she provided the following updates.

As of October 1, 2024, the district has served 1,206 new applicants, with 460 of those individuals now employed. The agency has handled a total of 2,801 cases, which include students in grades 9 through 12. Additionally, over 400 students have participated in work-based learning opportunities, focusing on youth in Lapeer, Tuscola, Sanilac, Huron, and Genesee counties (including St. Clair).

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) still has funding available for post-secondary and vocational training. There will be opportunities for participation and collaboration in apprenticeships and on-the-job training for the upcoming year. There are also definite chances to combine funding for employer up-skilling aimed at individuals with disabilities.

Regarding budget restrictions, there are limitations on Farm Rehabilitation and Supported Employment programs.

Currently, interviews are being conducted for a General Office Assistant position in Caro and a Vocational Counselor position in Flint. Other current openings include a General Office Assistant in Flint and a Rehabilitation Service Consultant in Port Huron.

b) Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS)

Jeff Cook shared updates from the MDHHS Green Book and federal government data. He reported that the Family Independence Program (FIP) has been extended for another year. Notably, Genesee County's FIP caseload has increased by 11% since April 2025, contrasting with 2023, when the caseload had been steadily declining until its rise in May 2024. In terms of medical assistance, statistics show the county has maintained its caseload of approximately 60,000 cases from last year to the close of this fiscal year. Similarly, the food assistance caseload has also remained steady at approximately 44,000 cases over the year.

Additionally, Jeff mentioned statistics regarding the Food Assistance Program (FAP) error rates. For this fiscal year, the State of Michigan's FAP Error Rate was 9.53%; this rate is comprised of both agency and client error. Although this marks a decrease from 13% in 2022, it still exceeds the 6% standard threshold set by federal officials. As a result, this could lead to financial penalties in the future if the percentage does not continue to decline. Finally, as of last year, the national state average was 10.93%, and the State of Michigan continues to make efforts that will positively impact the FAP error rates.

c) Adult Education

Mary Shelton shared concerns about continued funding for Adult Education programs following recent state and federal budget proposals. Since January 1st, 2025, the Family Literacy Center has awarded 66 GED certificates, positively impacting students' career prospects. Mary noted that 60% of students are under 24, making them eligible for the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates Program (JMG), which serves youth aged 16-24. This connection enables students to further their education, develop career skills, and receive job search support.

d) Job Corps

Verona Terry announced that Job Corps has been able to reopen its doors. Though the shutdown earlier this year left campus students displaced, the reopening of the center has allowed them to return. Following the reopening, the center can once again conduct mandatory background checks for new students, which will ease the backlog of new applicants hoping to attend the center. Additionally, Verona noted that they have partnered with Hurley Medical Center and are now offering both medical administrative and Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) classes at Job Corps.

Job Corps will be holding their student graduation commencement ceremony on Friday, September 19th. The Community Relations Council (CRC) breakfast meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9th.

X. Comments/Other Business

There were no additional comments or other business discussions.

XI. Adjournment

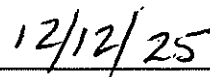
Seeing there was no other business, Chair Panduren called the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Next meeting Friday, December 12th, 2025 at 9:30 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.

