



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
March 13th, 2026; 9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:47 a.m. by Chair Leanne Panduren.

Baird, Rick		Mosier, Brianna / Amy Watts	X
Batistoni, Pete		Nas, Paula	
Byers, Kimberly		Panduren, Leanne	X
Gasso, Rochelle/ Dennis Weinand	X	Prill, Yvonne / Diane Ricevuto	
Gaudet, Dan / Zach Desrochers	X	Rogers, Lisa	
Gutierrez, Madison		Shelton, Mary / Meredith Donahue	X
Hartwell, John / Chris Fillmore	X	Sheppard, Daniel / Verona Terry	X
Kappen, Jason / Duston Fenner	X	Turner, Rafael/ Madison Jarmon	X
Kunisch, Chuck		Witt, Janie	X
Lewis-Jennings, Tracie / Linda Watson	X	Zahn, Correen	X
Mose, Sandi / Jeff Cook	X		

Thirteen members were present. An X indicates present members.

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

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Leanne Panduren called for approval of the agenda. Member Zach Desrochers moved to approve the agenda. Member Rafael Turner supported the motion. Chair Leanne 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 December 12th, 2025**

Member Mary Shelton moved to approve the meeting minutes. Member Jason Kappen supported the motion. Chair Leanne 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:

- Michigan Works! System Plan, PI 26-02
- Young Professionals (YP)
- Young Professionals Plus (YPP)
- FY 26 Going Pro Talent Fund, Cycle 1.

Member John Hartwell moved to approve the plans as presented. Member Zach Desrochers supported the motion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

c. **Appointment of John Hartwell, Career & Outreach Coordinator for The Operating Engineers 324 Journeyman & Apprentice Training Fund, Inc., to serve on the Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) representing the Labor sector, with Chris Fillmore serving as his alternate**

Member Coreen Zahn moved to appoint John Hartwell and Chris Fillmore. Member Rafael Turner supported the motion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

VI. Finance

Approval of the Agency Grant Budget and Expenditure Report for July 1st, 2025 – January 31st, 2026

Kelly Cook reviewed the report with the members. Member Zach Desrochers moved to approve the reports as presented. Member Rafael Turner supported the motion. Chair Leanne Panduren called for discussion and a vote.

All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

VII. Agency Updates – Jody Kerbyson discussed the agency's involvement with the Community Growth Academy cohorts, which include two communities within the GSTMW! region. This initiative was launched to address possible disruptions in the workforce due to fluctuating EV demand, aiming to assist communities most likely to be affected by shifts in the manufacturing industry.

Jody also provided updates on the ongoing collaborative efforts among Michigan Works! agencies involved in the Regional Innovation Grant through LEO-WD which includes GST Michigan Works!, Region 7B Michigan Works!, Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!, and Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works.

Additionally, Jody shared insights into the agency's Apprentice Readiness Training program, detailing the curriculum and the many benefits available to those who complete the training.

Jody announced that she, along with Sharon Bowen, Jessica Billiau, and Leanne Panduren, recently participated in the Michigan Works! Association's Advocacy Day in Lansing. Meetings were held with available legislators to showcase the agency's programs, successes, and data. Each meeting sought

to highlighting the positive outcomes of the agency's initiatives within the community. Jody provided board members with materials detailing the 2026 workforce strategy and state budget priorities.

Informational Items

- a) *Talent Talk*
- b) Board Acronyms
- c) Board Roster
- e) 2026 Meeting dates

VIII. Partner Updates

- a) **Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)** – Linda Watson announced that Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) is preparing for its youth summer program. This program connects young job seekers with documented disabilities to local employers for paid summer employment opportunities.

Additionally, Linda mentioned that MRS has appointed a new Business Relations Consultant to serve the counties of Genesee, Tuscola, Sanilac, Huron, Lapeer, and St. Clair.

Lastly, Linda reminded board members that MRS's services not only assist disabled job seekers but also help remove barriers for currently employed individuals, enabling them to retain their jobs.

- b) **Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS)** – Sandi Mose shared that several area DHHS directors have or will be changing this year.

Sandi also announced that residents receiving food assistance will be receiving new Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards this year. The new cards will be equipped with chips to stay current with the payment processing equipment used in most stores.

- c) **Adult Education** – Mary Shelton shared state statistics in comparison to the region's adult education statistics. She noted that an alarming number of state residents do not obtain a High School Diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate. With this information, the need to reach those individuals only increases the efforts currently being made by agencies across the state. Mary shared that, although it may seem small in comparison to state numbers, the Family Literacy Center was able to assist 79 individuals in receiving their GED in their region last year. She mentioned that the program is on track to reach similar numbers for the current year as well.

Furthermore, the Family Literacy Center is also continuing its work at the Tuscola County Jail by providing educational programs and resources.

- d) **Job Corps** – Verona Terry announced that the Flint and Genesee Job Corps recently received high praise, ranking 7th out of 127 Job Corps centers in the country for its outstanding service. She noted that the Michigan Department of Labor is working closely with Job Corps to keep its doors and services open to the community.

Job Corps students had the opportunity to share their experiences and life-changing stories with the district directors, highlighting how the agency's programs affect the community and workforce alike.

IX. Comments/Other Business

No additional comments or business were discussed.

X. Adjournment

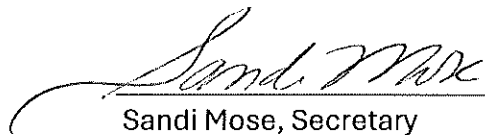
Seeing there was no other business, Chair Leanne Panduren called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. Member Zach Desrochers made the motion to adjourn. Member Correen Zahn supported.

Next meeting Friday, June 12th, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Mose, Secretary

Stephanie Polmanteer, Administrative Specialist

 6/12/26
Sandi Mose, Secretary Date