GST MICHIGAN
GENESEE SHIAWASSEE THUMB WORKS!™

CAREER & EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (CEAC)
MINUTES
March 13th, 2026, 1:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Charmian Fletcher

Allard, Diana / *Amy Hoeksema* – Genesee ISD	X	Napier, Troy – Baker College Owosso	X
Barry, Ray – GST Flint	X	Pavlichek, Lee – Tuscola ISD, TCC Principal/CTE Director	X
Matthews, Robert / *Autumn Scherzer,* ***Janie Jacobs*** –	X	Prill, Yvonne – Scheurer Health/WDB Member	
Fletcher, Charmian – Shiawassee RESD	X	Shelton, Mary – Family Literacy Center/ WDB Member	X
Grimes, Dayonte – Lapeer Community Schools	X	Stiles, Casie – Shiawassee RESD	X
Hartwell, John – The Operating Engineers 324	X	Terry, Verona – Flint Genesee Job Corps Center	X
Langenburg, Brad – MI-Tech Tool Advanced		Walker, Lane – Huron Area Technical Center	X
Mosier, Brianna / *Amy Watts* - Flint & Genesee			
Balcer, Kay – Thumb Community Health Partnership,		Keenan-Lechel, Sarah – Genesee ISD	
Cappell, Dawn – Lapeer ISD	X	Konarski, Ann – Lapeer County CAN	X
Cowhy, Dawn –Lapeer ISD	X	Lewis-Jennings, Tracie – Michigan Rehabilitation Services	
Daligga, Sarah – Business Development Manager,		Nelson, Deb – Sanilac ISD	X
Gandhi, Nick – Economic Analyst, State of Michigan		Poplar-Herd, Penny – Greater Flint Health Coalition	X
Granz, Kari – Thumb Community Health Partnership,		Seigel, Lisa – MiSTEM, Region 7	X
Green, Tanya – Shiawassee RESD		Walworth, Corrine – Genesee ISD	
Guzman, Rey – Business Services Representative, State			

An X indicates present members.
Staff present were Jody Kerbyson, Sharon Bowen, Jessica Billiau, Angela Libkie, Katie Chrismer, and Stephanie Polmanteer. Other attendees: Brian Pyles

II. MiLearner Wallet Presentation

Brian L. Pyles, Ph.D., Strategic Advisor for CTE and Workforce Development, provided a presentation outlining the MILearner Wallet program.

III. Approval of Agenda

Chair Charmian Fletcher called for approval of the agenda with corrections to Action Items b.) and c.) to reflect approval for the Perkins Grant Application for PY 26-27. Member Lee Pavlichek moved to approve the agenda. Member Lane Walker supported the motion. Chair Charmian Fletcher called for discussion and a vote. All members present voted AYE.
MOTION PASSED

IV. Introductions

Members, staff, and other attendees introduced themselves.

V. Action Items

a. **Approval of the CEAC meeting minutes of November 7th, 2025**
Member Troy Napier moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Diana Allard supported the motion. Chair Charmian Fletcher called for discussion and a vote. All members present voted AYE.
MOTION PASSED

b. **Approval of the 26-27 Perkins Grant Application for Region 11**
Member Diana Allard moved to approve the application as presented. Member Ray Barry supported the motion. Chair Charmian Fletcher called for discussion and a vote. All members present voted AYE.
MOTION PASSED

c. **Approval of the 26-27 Perkins Grant Application for Region 15**
Member Lee Pavlichek moved to approve the application as presented. Member Lane Walker supported the motion. Chair Charmian Fletcher called for discussion and a vote. All members present voted AYE.
MOTION PASSED

VI. Updates

a. Adult Education – Mary Shelton provided state-wide statistics and how the region measures in comparison. She also shared that the Family Literacy Center has launched a program in partnership with the Tuscola County Jail, and it has been well-received. Lastly, she announced that English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are now available in two counties, with hopes that it will continue to extend throughout the region.

b. CTE & CCAN

- Genesee County – Diana Allard discussed the popularity of the county's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. She explained that although continued funding is not a concern, more information about allocation is needed for some programs to continue operating smoothly. Diana shared that the CTE hopes to expand in areas such as Health Science programs, as those classes and career opportunities continue to trend with a higher demand. Also discussed were CTE and early middle-college statistics in the county.

  Corrine Walworth provided updates for Genesee County College and Career Access Network (GCCCAN). GCCCAN's goal is to work with the county's schools and community partners to connect students to resources and opportunities as they approach post-secondary education.

  Corrine shared information about the Beyond Graduation website that has been created to provide the necessary resources for students to continue their education after graduation. The website continues to grow in content and popularity.

  The network has also launched a Career and College Connections newsletter that is geared towards direct service providers and organizations in the county to connect them through their shared outreach goals. Corrine announced a recent partnership with Mott Community College (MCC) to create opportunities for adult education as well as post-secondary education.

- Huron County – Lane Walker provided updates about the Huron County CTE Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program. The program remains a popular choice, yielding great results and career outcomes for the students. He shared that the three top courses at the CTE are currently the Power Tech, Health Sciences, and Law Enforcement programs.

  Participation in the county's Freshmen Focus event at the tech center is steadily growing each year, allowing freshmen to tour the center and explore potential programs for future enrollment.

- Lapeer County – Dawn Cappel noted that the county has been working on growing its early-college enrollment. The current standard CTE program also allows students to dual-enroll in early college and earn a minimum of 48 credits by the end of their 13th year.

Dawn also mentioned that they are working to collaborate with the Family Literacy Center in the Tuscola County Jail program to aid staffing.

Dayonte Grimes provided updates for Lapeer Community Schools. He shared that the school's seniors are currently working on recreating their resumes and participating in co-op programs with various local companies. Students enrolled in the robotics courses will soon earn their Level I and II robotics programming certifications that can be added to their resume and experience in the co-op programs.

Additionally, several students are advancing in entrepreneurship by starting their own businesses using the knowledge they have gained in the program.

This year, all four Lapeer elementary schools will participate in STEM camps to introduce younger students to new and exciting information about careers today.

Lastly, the school district aims to create opportunities through partnerships with local companies to assist adults in learning new skills for better employment prospects.

Ann Konarski shared that the Lapeer County Local College Access Network (LCAN) has been on a talent tour to Hurley Medical Center, with others soon to come at the DTE Pinnebog Wind Farm, Bad Axe Discovery Education Center, and the Blue Water Building Trades.

She announced that Lapeer High School is finalizing its partnership with St. Clair County Community College (SC4), thus allowing its students to expedite the admissions process into their courses.

Furthermore, Ann is currently working with GSTMW! to set up a virtual reality (VR) event for STEM students in May. The event allows students to use the agency's VR headsets to explore different careers more interactively.

- Sanilac County – No representatives were in attendance to provide updates.

- Shiawassee County – Charmian Fletcher announced that the 2026-2027 school year application window ended in February, with application totals for the CTE exceeding available seats.

  Region 15 recently underwent a review by the Michigan Department of Education, with great results.

  Charmian shared that a long-time supporter of the Shiawassee CTE and local business owner, Bryan Marks, was nominated and received the Michigan Association for Career and Technical Education (MI ACTE) Advisory Committee Member of the Year, due to the profound generosity of his time and resources dedicated to the Shiawassee CTE programming.

  Casie Stiles shared updates related to the work-based learning programs offered in Shiawassee County. She stated that programs are continuing to grow, with health science students attending Memorial Hospital, a senior care center, and a veterinary office. The work-based programs allow the students the opportunity to spend their class time on-site at these facilities to gain a greater understanding of the field through on-the-job training.

  In the last year, Casie announced that they're making more connections in creating the same opportunities for the students in heavy equipment program as well.

  Last, a CTE tour event is being planned for the county's eighth graders, who will get the opportunity to tour the center in May and explore its programs and possibilities.

- Tuscola County – Lee Pavlichek made mention of the Tuscola County Jail program with the Family Literacy Center.

The Tech Center had 9th and 10th grade students tour the CTE and explore the 17 programs offered by them. This year's enrollment has increased again, showing promise for the coming years. Lee noted that with the increase in enrollment, the facility is researching more opportunities to obtain funding to meet the high demand in the CTE's curriculum.

Lee mentioned that the county continues to assist students with obtaining certifications in various trainings. These practices remove barriers for the students and allow them to build a portfolio that will attract future employers' attention.

The county will be holding its yearly interview day, and a job fair for the students as well.

c. MiSTEM
   - Region 6 (I-69 region) and Region 7 (Mid-Michigan region) – Lisa Seigel announced that the Region 6 MiSTEM Director has accepted another position due to recent funding outcomes. She did, however, mention that the Governor has included MiSTEM funding in the budget for the year 2027, and the initiative hopes to regain its footing in the ever-changing MiSTEM forefront.

     Lisa shared that Region 7 continues to focus on project, problem, and place-based (3P) training, which includes K-12 in any discipline. They currently have two training sessions planned for June and August of this year. Lisa provided information on several upcoming MiSTEM career exploration training sessions for regional education administrators and students.

d. Regional Career Outlooks – Nick Gandhi was not in attendance but emailed information announcing that the new 2026 Annual Planning information and Workforce Analysis Reports are expected to be released in May.

e. Skilled Trades/Apprenticeships – Ray Barry announced that the Apprenticeship Program now hosts 83 apprentices with 41 employers. Ray also shared that the Flint Odyssey House will soon have their first 10 students graduating from its apprentice program, which is the first of its kind in the state.

f. GSTMW! Youth Programs – Katie Chrismer provided updates regarding Young Professionals and Young Professionals Plus funding for 2026-2027. She explained further how the grants will be allocated across several counties and service centers to facilitate the program's target audience of 18–24-year-olds in the region.

   Katie also shared information about the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) program and how the current and future outlook appear to be a continued priority in the Governor's budget. She also noted that options are being explored for providing a JMG modeled program as an after-school curriculum to extend its availability to more students.

g. Career Exploration Subcommittee – Jessica Billiau shared that the preparation for the 2026 MiCareerQuest™ is shaping up nicely. She is hopeful that the funding will have the potential to assist additional career events in the region, as done in the past.

h. Employer Insights
   - Job Corps – Verona Terry announced that the Flint and Genesee Job Corps recently received high praise, ranking seventh 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.

     Verona shared how the students are not only taking the time to learn new skills but also helping the community by volunteering at local centers to help others. Information about upcoming events was also shared.

- Thumb Community Health Partnership – Kari Granz, could not attend the meeting. However, she provided the following updates for the meeting minutes.

  The Thumb Community Health Partnership will be wrapping up its Sanilac Career Exploration Program in two weeks, with thirty-four participating 9th and 10th graders. She noted that JMG curriculum and activities have been included in the program through the partnership with Katie Chrismer of GSTMW! Another career program will be starting in April at Harbor Beach Middle School. The program will be held during the school day during the students' health class.

  The Employer-Led Collaborative (ELC) continues as the network investigates restructuring the format, with more formal agreements and realigning the focus as a group. Kari extended an invitation to the CEAC members to join the network's quarterly meetings.

  Lastly, Kari noted that a Hands-On Health event will take place in Saginaw in partnership with the Mid-Central Area Health Education Center on May 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. It will be open to all 9th – 12th grade students in Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. She noted that if transportation is identified as a barrier for a student, please reach out to her to arrange transportation.

- Greater Flint Health Coalition (GFHC) – Penny Poplar-Herd announced that the GFHC is preparing for its Summer Healthcare Workforce program. The program runs for two weeks and is geared towards 18–24 year-olds, giving them the opportunity to tour local colleges and health care partners. Penny mentioned that some program participants are offered full-time employment with local health care agencies upon completion of the program and some short-term training. She wrapped up her update with a success story of one of the program's participants.

- Skilled Labor Force – John Hartwell made note that construction needs in the region are still in high demand. He stated that recruiting new laborers is a critical priority in the industry, with growing demand in areas such as solar farms and data centers.

  John announced that the Operating Engineers Local 324 Union is launching a program this year that will allow qualified CTE students direct entry into its union upon completion of an evaluation of grades, training, and certifications. He hopes that this program will gain popularity among other union groups as well.

VII. Other Updates/Comments

The 2026 meeting dates were provided in the agenda packet.

VIII. Adjournment

Seeing there was no other business, Chair Charmian Fletcher called the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 11th, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond Barry, Secretary
Stephanie Polmanteer, Administrative Specialist

RBPK 9/11/26

Raymond Barry, Secretary Date