

MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL
WDB/LEO JOINT MEETING
THE SHACK, JUGVILLE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009

MINUTES

LEO Members Present

Emig, Larry
Myers, Robert
Nichols, Mary
Scholtens, Sam
Trapp, Chuck
Warba, Mark

LEO Members Absent

Howard, Linda
Scott, Brent

WDB Members Present

Aultman, Robb
Boitnott, Larry
Bonga, Roger
Crandall, Sandy
Ferguson, Tim
Fettig, Grant
Frost, Jim
Geno, Buck
Genter, Sheila – Alternate Arnoldi
Hallenbeck, Chris
Jahr, Jeff
Lloyd, Larry
Massy, Dan
Stanek, Bill
Thompson, Sheri

WDB Members Absent

Arnoldi, John (Alternate sent)
Goward, Scott
Griffin, Nancy
Jensen, Jim
Nash, Roger
Smith-Olson, Debbie
Stuck, Brian
Trucks, Mary
Varenhorst, Michael

Michigan Works! West Central Staff

Griffith, Paul Reed, Brigette Shoemaker, Connie Wyman, Michael

Others Present

Anderson, Felisha – FBR	Frendo, Joe – NCRESA	Pike, Tom – Participant
Bozeman, Jerri – Hope Network	Gaietto, Cyndi – Goodwill	Stieg, Rebecca – MPRI
Crum, Moreen – FBR	Hall, Marie – Eagle Village (EV)	Wood, Janet – Hope Network
Dickson, Tony – MDOC	Mulnix, Rob – Goodwill	Wowianko, Laura – FBR
Flaherty, Erin – Double J Ranch		

Call to Order

LEO Chairperson, Larry Emig brought the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m. at The Shack in Jugville. A quorum was present of both the WDB and the LEO.

Introduction of New WDB Member – Chris Hallenbeck, Haworth, Big Rapids – Jeff Jahr, Fremont Area Community Foundation, Fremont – Roger Nash, Harsco Rail, Ludington

Chris Hallenbeck has been with Haworth for about six years – Haworth has two plants in Big Rapids and one in Ludington. He is pleased to be part of this Board, and this area.

Jeff Jahr, the Fremont Area Community Foundation provides grant support to non-profits; they also have affiliate partnerships with Lake, Mecosta and Osceola counties.

Larry explained that Roger Nash of Harsco Rails was not able to attend the meeting because he has a customer flying in from Austria.

Introduction of Guests

Guests were introduced and welcomed.

Mike explained that in the middle of October his wife, Dawn, had a brain aneurysm burst and was in the hospital for about three weeks in Grand Rapids. She is making a remarkable recovery and is expected to go back to work part time December 7, 2009. The odds of coming through an aneurysm of this nature and going back to work are not very good. They found three aneurysms and put a coil in the one that burst; surgery will have to be done sometime this summer on the second one and the third one they will decide later.

Showcase: MPRI

Rebecca Stieg is the Coordinator for the nine-county MPRI Central Area. The showcase today is someone who has shown initiative and has been very resourceful in making good use of the resources available to him in the local community. He has rallied the forces to help him make the adjustment back into the community.

Tony Dickson, Parole Agent in Lake County, stated that one of the benefits that the MPRI program has brought to Lake County is the ability to give those returning to the community the support they need to succeed. Before the MPRI program the parole agents managed people, such as –Where are you? What are you doing? Where are you going? This is what you need to do. This is what I want you to do. Since the MDOC has come on board with MPRI, our ability to help these returning citizens has been greatly enhanced. These people are coming back to the community anyway, but to be able to help them “fill the gaps” has made a big difference; not only with the job development and the transportation, but having someone else partnering and backing us up helping with the endeavors to make our returning citizens become productive members of our society. Michigan Works! and Goodwill has helped to “no end.”

Rob Mulnix, Employment Specialist for Goodwill Industries of West Michigan oversees Mason, Lake and Newaygo counties. Mr. Pike was released in the spring; he and Rob met and set a “game plan.” He had several barriers to overcome including his inability to read. He and Laura Wowianko, from Michigan Works! worked with Mr. Pike to get him registered in the Literacy Council. He was also referred to the Michigan Rehabilitation Services to identify any other underlying issues. Mr. Pike would pick up the applications and then bring them back and Laura would work with him to fill them out. Rob contacted the Double J Ranch and Erin Flaherty worked with him to place Mr. Pike at their facility.

Erin Flaherty hired Tom Pike in the housekeeping department. She explained that Tom is truly a “breath of fresh air,” always willing to do whatever needs to be done. Double J is very excited to have him on their team.

Tom Pike thanked the boards and said he thought this organization was great and the people he’s met have been great to work with and have been very helpful. The people he’s met through this program gave him the opportunity to get the job and show he can do it.

Rebecca encouraged the Board members to consider hiring those returning citizens and give them an opportunity to start a new life.

Larry Emig encouraged Tom to continue to use the talents he has within him and continue to develop them.

Cyndi Gaietto from Goodwill Industries also stated that the program does allow for payment of up to 80 hours of training when hiring those on the MPRI program.

Laura Wowianko from Foundation for Behavioral Resources said it has been a pleasure to work with Tom Pike. Recently he came in and showed her he had a “staff jacket.”

Consent Agenda (Action Item)

- Ø Minutes of October 7, 2009 WDB/LEO Joint Meeting – Mailed Prior
- Ø October Financial Report – Mailed Prior/Handout (Goldenrod)

Larry Boitnott moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; supported by Larry Lloyd; motion approved unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:14 p.m.

NOTE: Tony Dickson, Erin Flaherty, Rob Mulnix, Laura Wowianko, and Tom Pike left at 1:14 p.m.

2008/2009 Annual Audit – Mailed Prior (Action Item)

Brigette explained that Wipfli LLP from Madison, Wisconsin performed the audit again this year. She and her staff do a lot of preparation work before the auditors get there. Once the auditors are on site the information is ready for them and they don't have to be there for more than a few days.

The audit went very well again this year and there were No Findings.

Michigan Works! West Central received for the MPRI program in the first year a \$630,000 Grant and in the second year it was \$850,000, this current year it is up to \$912,000. All the money was not

spent because an increase was received part way through the year, but this year's expenditures are starting out at a higher level.

Mike and Paul applied to the State for a State Adjustment Grant for \$1 million and it could be proven that it was needed and the funds we had were obligated and we would run out before the end of June; the State approved it. At the time of the audit it was an application, by the time the audit was published it had been awarded to us.

With regard to expenditures for the Summer Youth Program, this audit does not do it justice because it only covers to June 30, so in the next audit the majority of the expenditures will show up.

Roger Bonga moved to accept the 2008/2009 Annual Audit as presented; supported by Robert Myers; motion approved unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:19 p.m.

October Program Reports – Handouts

² Enrollment/Expenditures Reports

This report reflects four months into the new Fiscal Year for the Workforce Investment Act and a full 12 months for the MPRI and Welfare Reform programs.

² Service Provider Updates

Eagle Village Credit Recovery outcomes indicated that 86% obtained a minimum of at least a half high school credit.

² PY 2008 Final WIA Performance Standards

² PY 2009 1st Quarter WIA Performance Standards

The WIA Performance Standards reports show the final for PY 2008. West Central MET all the Standards and EXCEEDED 14 of them. In the first quarter for PY 2009 two Standards in the Youth have zeros. For one, the goal was 84% and West Central got zero but involved only one person. For the second one (number 12), that zero involved two participants. At this point there is

no concern because usually the first quarter is always the lowest; however, this will obviously be watched by both West Central and Eagle Village.

Election of WDB Chair, Vice Chair & Treasurer (Action Item)

² Election of WDB Chair

Dan Massy nominated Sheri Thompson for WDB Chair; supported by Roger Bonga.

Jim Frost moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast; supported by Larry Boitnott; motion accepted. 1:30 p.m.

Sheri Thompson, WDB Chair

² Election of WDB Vice Chair

Grant Fettig nominated Bill Stanek for WDB Vice Chair; supported by Buck Geno.

Jim Frost moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast; supported by Roger Bonga; motion accepted. 1:31 p.m.

Bill Stanek, WDB Vice Chair

² Election of WDB Treasurer

Bill Stanek nominated Sandy Crandall for WDB Treasurer; supported by Sheri Thompson.

Jim Frost moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast; supported by Larry Boitnott; motion accepted. 1:32 p.m.

Sandy Crandall, WDB Treasurer

Plans/Modifications Summary Blue (Action Item)

1. WIA Budgets (Modification 09-02)

This Modification accepts the award of \$950,000 in Statewide Adjustment Grant (SAG) funding the area applied for and was approved at a special meeting of the State Admin. Board. The

funding is for Dislocated Workers, and a portion may be transferred to the Adult Program to meet demand.

2. Incumbent Worker (Modification 09-01)

The Modification revises the activities to allow Customized Training and OJT to be provided through the Incumbent Worker program. Our intention is to use an equal amount of ARRA funding for Incumbent Workers. The ARRA funding does not require the registration of workers and to us the Incumbent Worker funding to provide Customized Training and OJT, largely for the new hires at Wolverine World Wide, where registration of the new and current workforce with existing WIA funding would be required in the normal sequence of events.

3. Employment Service (Modification 09-01)

The Modification revises carry-in to the actual amount of \$22,530.

4. Food Assistance Employment & Training Program (Plan 10-00)

5. Food Assistance Employment & Training Supportive Service Plan (Plan 10-00)

These plan Food Assistance and Supportive Services for voluntary participants who are receiving Food Assistance through DHS. Participants are those who volunteer and are referred by DHS. They may receive workfare, various training, including high school completion, remediation, job search and unsubsidized employment and supportive services of up to \$50 per month of participation.

6. JET Plan (Plan 10-00)

Final instructions and draft allocations totaling \$917,063 have been received. The activities remain unchanged, but services to non-custodial parents and non-cash recipients are deleted by the state because of reduced funding.

Jim Frost moved to accept WIA Budgets 09-02; the Incumbent Worker 09-01; the Employment Service 09-01; the Food Assistance Plan 10-00; the Food Assistance Supportive

Service Plan 10-00; and the JET Plan 10-00; motion supported by Sandy Crandall; motion accepted by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:48 p.m.

Update on Construction of New Big Rapids Workforce Service Center/Administrative Office

Paul explained that things are going very well and the Service Center should be moving in about two months. The building should be turned over February 1, 2010, the move will be in two parts – the Service Center will be moved first and then the admin office will be moved a week or two later.

NOTE: Rebecca Stieg left at 1:49 p.m.

Ø New Partners

Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids, Trillium – a temp agency and Mid Michigan Action Agency will be moving with us.

The procurement of a telephone bid is in the process.

Business Activity – Handouts

Ø Wolverine World Wide, Big Rapids

This involves about 286 new jobs. These jobs are coming from Arkansas; West Central could not assist on this project for 120 calendar days starting from the time the first person is hired locally.

There will be about 500 to 600 employees at Wolverine.

Ø North Lake Correctional Facility, Baldwin

Last week there was a public hearing, both chairs and vice chairs of the LEO and WDB attended; there was a total of seven board members there. The entire meeting was positive. This would involve 300 plus jobs.

Ø Yoplait, Reed City

Yoplait posted 10 jobs with the possibility of hiring 20 to 30 people; the Reed City Center took over 2,000 applications for these positions. WorkKeys testing will begin next week.

Ø Trade Act Certifications

Trade Act Certifications have been received for five companies in our five counties – Federal Screw Works, Pittsburgh Glass Works, Straits Steel & Wire, Martinrea (Reed City tool & Die) and Ventra Evert.

Trade Act expenditures spiked in September 2004 and 2005 dropping in 2006.

Ø US Census Bureau

US Census Bureau is looking for people to take census and paying \$12 per hour.

NOTE: Jim Frost & Mary Nichols left at 2:00 p.m.

Marie Hall left at 2:01 p.m.

Mark Warba left at 2:03 p.m.

Newspaper Articles – Handouts

Big Rapids Pioneer, Front Page, October 22, 2009 – “MOCC’S Learn 2 Earn” – Learning skills to pay the bills. Learn 2 Earn offers residents training opportunities in demand occupations.

The Pioneer Osceola Edition, November 18, 2009 – “For the Community” – features the Hersey Park project and is ready to use. With the financial assistance of the Mosaic potash plant, the village was able to complete some ambitious plans that would have had to wait.

Rob said that Mosaic has received more publicity for this project than they ever thought possible. This has been a great example of partnership.

Grand Rapids Press, October 30, 2009 – “Merger expands Hope Network” – this is a small merger for Hope Network. The Flint group’s services include treatment for substance abuse.

Ludington Daily News, November 16, 2009 – “Shelter use increasing” – local churches in Mason County rotate sheltering the homeless.

GED National Update – Handout

Over the past several months the movement towards more rigorous national standards for high school education has gained momentum. Because of the changing national landscape GED testing will transition directly from the current 2002 Test Series to a new, more comprehensive assessment program.

Ø Employment & Training Reporter Article

The percentage of the workforce requiring some college or above grew from 28% in 1973 to 59% in 2007 and is expected to increase to 63% by 2018.

Mystery Shopper/Mystery Stopper – Handout

Paul explained that the Mystery Shopper/Mystery Stopper is a contract the state has with a vendor and they mystery shop the Michigan Works! agencies. The average for 2009 is back up to a great 9.5.

MiBiz Reprints – Handouts

MiBiz reprints features Harsco Rail in Ludington and the Dock project in Newaygo County.

Update on New Business Service Director Position

Paul explained that progress has been made. Paul has received responses from his fellow directors on job descriptions, etc. He expects to have the posting out soon and have someone on board by the first part of the year.

Mailing Packet Items

West Central Michigan Employment and Training Consortium (d/b/a "Michigan Works! West Central") – Annual Audit

Ø Unemployment Chart

The unemployment rate for the West Central area went down slightly or stayed the same except Lake County which went up by two-tenths. The National rate stayed the same and the State of Michigan went down five-tenths.

Next Meeting, February 3, 2010 – the Reed City Workforce Service Center

The next meeting will be at the Michigan Works! Reed City Workforce Service Center in Osceola County.

Ø 2010 Meeting Schedule – Handout

A list of the scheduled WDB/LEO Joint Meetings for 2010 was distributed.

Updated WDB Membership List – Handout

A current list of the WDB was given out.

Round-the-Table

- » Genter, MDOC (Alternate for John Arnoldi) - MDOC's fiscal year ends in September, this report is for the month of October – the prison population is 45,942 and the number of parolees is 19,454; the number of the MPRI parolees will be increasing as 1,300 prisoners are suppose to be released statewide between now the end of December. MDOC is increasing staff; an additional probation officer was hired in Newaygo County.

- » Myers, Lake County Commissioner – thanked all those who attended the GEO public hearing, especially the support from the Chairs and Vice Chairs of these Boards. It was a great turnout. His granddaughter died recently of H1N1 flu – she was only 24 years old.
- » Massy, Osceola Economic Alliance – Reed City Tool & Die is now locally owned. The Plant Manager has done an exceptional job keeping the company profitable, which hasn't been very easy with tool & die companies lately.
- » Fettig, Fettig Farms – this being the first of December, if you live in a place that raises corn, there is still a lot of corn that needs to be harvested. This year there is a very high moisture content which has caused problems. This will most likely cause a trickle down affect in the grocery stores, etc.
- » Trapp, Newaygo County Commissioner – the jail expansion is underway and he is very pleased with the cooperation in the county. This will allow about 68 to 70 more beds and when completed it will house a total of about 300 prisoners.
- » Crandall, Northern Escape Lodge & Cabins – she encouraged everyone to drop a note to their state elected officials about the importance of creating a tourism campaign for the winter wonderland of Michigan. Even with the economic downturn events were very well attended in Lake County. Paperwork has also been submitted for the designation of US10 as a Historic Highway.
- » Lloyd, Mason-Lake-Oceana ISD – in the ongoing attempt to educate people after six months after the local boards had to set the program levels and expenditures for the year, they are now taking a \$300 cut per student, which in the Lake/Mason/Oceana ISD would mean a cut of almost \$3 million. Looking at next year it appears it could be almost as high as \$500 per student. Business as usual, won't be “business as usual.”
- » Boitnott, Department of Human Services – as of today no one is being laid off. The budget was signed October 29th, however it is still susceptible to line item veto. DHS funds for Mason County have been cut 40%. Michigan is looking at a \$24.2 million TANF penalty, this has to do with the

program partnered with DLEG and the Michigan Works! agencies to get individuals employed. This \$24.2 million lost in Federal funding has to be replaced with State funding, so it comes to a \$48 million penalty, because the programs still have to be provided. Based on the State unemployment the goal was missed by only 2%, there was only 13 states that met the goal. There is expected another 20% cut in the 2010 budget and in 2011 expect another 20% cut from each department mainly because the 2010 budget has \$1.3 million of Stimulus funds.

- » Geno, West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades, Local #174 – 21,000 square foot expansion to the training facility, some of the stimulus dollars were used to build this facility. The training facility was built because of the research part of the “medical mile” so to speak. The unemployment rate among the union group is only 7%.

Other Business

Reserved for the Public

Adjournment

Meeting stands adjourned at 2:38 p.m.