

MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL
WDB/LEO JOINT MEETING
FREMONT WORKFORCE SERVICE CENTER
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011

MINUTES

LEO Members Present

Carrington, Colleen – Myers Alternate
Emig, Larry
Scholtens, Sam
Trapp, Chuck
Warba, Mark

LEO Members Absent

Courtney, Kevin
Myers, Robert – sent Alternate
Nichols, Mary
Taranko, Wally

WDB Members Present

Crandall, Sandy
Ferguson, Tim
Fettig, Grant
Griffin, Nancy
Hallenbeck, Chris
Jensen, Jim
Kamphuis, Doug
Lloyd, Larry
Massy, Dan
Nash, Roger
Roubal, Lew
Smith-Olson, Debbie
Stanek, Bill
Thompson, Sheri

WDB Members Absent

Bonga, Roger
Frost, Jim
Gibbs, Ken
Stuck, Brian
Trucks, Mary

Michigan Works! West Central Staff

Griffith, Paul Herron, Michelle Shoemaker, Connie Wyman, Michael

Others Present

Bozeman, Jerri – Hope Network	Frendo, Joe – NC RESA	Smith, Amanda – Gerber Memorial
Charles, Felisha – FBR	Gaietto, Cyndi – Goodwill	Sweigart, Lynda – Hope Network
Crum, Moreen – FBR	Hall, Marie – Eagle Village	Wood, Janet – Hope Network
Crysler, Al – Eagle Village	Stieg, Rebecca – PR	

Call to Order

LEO Chairperson, Larry Emig brought the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. at the Fremont Workforce Service Center. A quorum is present of both the WDB and the LEO.

Introduction of Guests

Guests were introduced and welcomed.

Showcase: Amanda Smith, 2011 Alumnus, Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Hospital

Marie Hall explained that Amanda was selected as West Central's 2011 Alumnus. Youth Employment Specialist, Al Crysler was her Case Manager.

Al explained that Amanda came to Michigan Works! in 2008 asking for CNA training. When she completed that we set up a Work Experience in Out Patient Surgery at Gerber Hospital; she did such a fine job there that they hired her. She is currently working there and attending Muskegon Community College working towards a degree as a Registered Nurse. Amanda stayed focused all the time we worked together. If they were all like Amanda it would be a lot different world.

Amanda thanked Al and said that if it weren't for him she wouldn't have gotten this far; he wasn't afraid to push her and keep her on track. He checked on her from time to time and made sure she was at work and there on time. The Michigan Works! program has helped me a lot and I have told a lot of people about it. My husband was laid off and is now in No Worker Left Behind and will graduate with an Associate's Degree in Web Design. Michigan Works! and Al changed my life and I want to thank Al and Michigan Works!

Larry asked Amanda to explain briefly her experience at the Michigan Works! Association Celebration. Amanda explained that she was very nervous because she had to do a speech and wasn't sure just what she would say. She had experienced many different struggles, at one time breaking both wrists. She wanted to incorporate that as well as recognizing Al for his efforts. When she got there she was presented with a plaque with her name. Everyone gave their story and then pictures were taken afterwards.

Larry thanked her for being such a great example of the many Michigan Works! West Central success stories.

NOTE: Al Crysler & Amanda Smith left at 12:46 p.m.

Prisoner Re-entry Program Update – Handouts (Action Item)

➤ Cost & Services Parameters

Rebecca Stieg summarized some of the events since late-March when there was a release of new parameters from the Michigan Department of Corrections Central Office in regards to services to folks in the community. At that time a document was released by MDOC to the 18 local regions laying out the new program parameters and cost caps. These new parameters significantly restricted some the activities that we have been able to provide until now. The Michigan Works! Directors, Community Coordinators and Steering Team Co-Chairs felt these changes undermined the work that had been done locally to establish and determine what resources were needed and how they should be delivered based on the local needs. There was a lot of feedback to the MDOC from the various partners. It is understood the need for local parameters as this initiative has matured and to determine “best practice,” but we feel strongly it is important to do that in a way that continues to involve the community and continues to draw in the investment of the community. To have continued success, local flexibility is very important, especially as diverse the needs of returning people are, how they vary from a rural area to an urban area. This feedback went back to MDOC and responded that they recognized the importance for them to relook at this and to ask for more input from the community and as a result withdrew the initial document. Revised parameters and cost caps were reissued in August.

One item that did not change was the concept of “unit rate” which results in us to having to break down each activity into a “unit.” This will be difficult to do – when working with people it is very hard to do, such as for 15 minutes I worked with this person on a resume; for 15 minutes I worked with this person on following up on a job lead; for an hour and a half I worked with them in a workshop. This will certainly generate more paperwork and add to the administrative costs. This is one of our most significant concerns.

➤ PY 12 Funding

There are also some changes in the contracts – Rebecca and Mike have been working together to bring things up to the new standards of the state – the smaller agreements with the many landlords and numerous mental health providers, behavioral services, healthcare services with the new language regarding liability, outcome, monitoring and measuring the services provided. We have also requested some exceptions to the parameters where some of the services we feel are essential were lifted out of the parameters and we are now waiting to hear back from the state on this request.

Paul explained that the “mini” and “full” assessments are extremely important and only two Prisoner ReEntry regions have that service – Central Area and Muskegon/Ottawa. This service was removed as an option in the new parameters, but we have requested an exception. It can be proven that we get far more for every dollar spent – less than \$20,000 a year is spent to have anyone, who reports medical needs, go through a mini assessment and if evidenced there are issues they then get a full assessment. The money we get back in terms of pharmaceutical alone more than pay for this service. It is hoped that the Department will allow this activity to continue.

Mike, Rebecca, Glennes and others have spent a lot of time on this; our waiver is about eight pages long.

West Central did realize about a 12% cut in funding.

➤ Goodwill Industries Contract Extension

Rebecca thanked Goodwill because for the last several months they have been working pretty much in limbo, not knowing which way this is going to go and it has been very hard on staff.

Paul explained that typically a couple months prior to the October Board meeting, an Oversight Committee would have reviewed Goodwill’s performance. However, it wasn’t known if the Contract would have to be put out for bid. Due to the new MDOC changes and the great job Goodwill was doing, it was felt that a Committee meeting was not the appropriate avenue to take.

James Jensen moved to extend the Contract with Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids for one year for Prisoner Re-entry services; supported by Dan Massy; motion approved by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:00 p.m.

Sam Scholtens moved to extend the Contract with Muskegon Community Health Project for one year for Prisoner Re-entry Health Services; supported by Chuck Trapp; motion approved by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:04 p.m.

Unduplicated participants served are 463 from October 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011; 233 participants received 911 units of vouchered services.

Cyndi explained that there are 190 active participants and this includes those carried over to October. Total Active Participants ranged from 246 in October 2010 to 199 in August 2011; duplications do occur between months and between support and employment services. There is 53% of the Active Participants working; the Contract Goal is 45%.

➤ **Baldwin & Ionia Community Gardens**

Paul explained that there are two Community Gardens – one in Baldwin and one in Ionia maintained by area parolees. Originally the design for the garden was an area approximately 25X25 feet. After extensive help from both probationers and parolees on the caseload in Lake County, the garden was expanded to approximately 70X70 feet. This is a great way for these parolees/probationers to give back to the community.

Consent Agenda (Action Item)

➤ **Approval of August 3, 2011 Action Items by LEO – Handout (Yellow)**

Chuck Trapp moved to ratify the motion for the August 3, 2011 Joint Meeting Consent Agenda; supported by Sam Scholtens; motion accepted unanimously by the LEO.

Sam Scholtens moved to ratify the motion for the Plans/Modifications presented at the August 3, 2011 Joint Meeting; supported by Chuck Trapp; motion accepted unanimously by the LEO.

- Minutes of August 3, 2011 WDB/LEO Joint Meeting – Mailed Prior
- August Financial Report – Mailed Prior/Handout (Goldenrod)

Bill Stanek moved to approve the Minutes of the August 3, 2011 Joint meeting and the August Financial Report as presented; supported by Sheri Thompson; motion approved unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:19 p.m.

August Program Reports – Handouts

✧ Enrollment/Expenditures Reports

Paul explained that Brigette is in Nevada with her mother who just had surgery. We were able to give Eagle Village their funding for the whole year in a one lump sum unlike the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding, so the report will show a more complete picture next time. On the report for FBR it shows \$109,000 this is the amount they had to work with for July, August and September. When Congress acted in April of this year, because of the way the allocations are granted we had to take the cut for the entire year in that 90-day period. That why there are no new enrollments, however you will see that FBR brought in 113 active people. So they were still incurring costs. Now as of October 1, that budget goes up quite significantly. This rational is the same for the Dislocated Worker funding. JET is on a different fiscal year cycle, with FBR and Hope both on track to spend their respective allocations.

Goodwill will not spend all their money; whatever is not used will go back to MDOC. At this point we may give back about \$115,000.

Muskegon Community Health Project will only spend about \$17,000/\$18,000 this year.

❖ PY'10 Final WIA Performance Standards

West Central WIA Final Report for Fiscal Year 2010 – West Central exceeded 16 goals and met one which is the Participant Customer Satisfaction. The State as a whole EXCEEDED 14 of the 17 and MET the remaining three. 100% of this success goes to our Service Providers.

❖ State of Michigan Annual Report Success Stories

Mike explained that the State does an annual WIA report to the United States Department of Labor. West Central submitted a success story for Peacock Industries which had to do with a Waiver for Incumbent Worker. We also submitted Harsco Rail for Dislocated Worker Formula for Incumbent Worker. These were both selected to be in the report to the federal government. West Central is the only Michigan Works! Agency to have success stories in this category of the report. There were about only eight or ten other Michigan Works! agencies that had success stories in other categories – this is not where “everyone gets one.”

Plans/Modifications Summary Blue (Action Item)

1. WIA Plan (Modification 10-07)

This Modification is for last year's WIA program. West Central has received an additional allocation of \$36,471 in Dislocated Worker funding which will carry into the current Program Year. This Modification accepts this funding.

2. WIA Plan (Modification 11-01)

The initial allocations and plan submitted had budget numbers for the first quarter (July through September), with estimated allocations for the next three quarters. While updated allocations have not been received, we talked to our State Coordinator and submitted budgets based on the planning estimates so there are budgets in place for October 2011 through June 2012.

3. 5 Year Plan Authorization to Work

State requires an “Authorization to Work” for aliens who want WIA to pay for training. This is included in the 5-Year Plan Modification 19. Modification states, proper authorization to work in the United States is required for a person to participate in training. State requires Board approval of the policy.

4. Employment Services (Modification 10-02)

West Central has been awarded an additional \$11,775 for the PY’10 Employment Service Program. Spending authority is through June 2012. This amount is added to the PY’10 plan and will become carry-in funding to the PY’11 plan. The Modification accepts this funding.

5. Employment Services (Modification 11-01)

West Central has been awarded an additional \$18,254 for the PY’11 Employment Service Program. This Modification accepts this funding.

6. Food Assistance Employment & Training (Plan 12-00)

Draft instructions have been received and the Plan is being prepared. The program changes and costs limitations are in place from last year. Allocations, while down, are sufficient for the referrals we are receiving.

7. TANF (JET Plan 12-00)

Draft instructions and final allocations have been received and the Plan has been drafted. The state is working on further changes to JET that are still in the developmental stages.

Sandy Crandall moved to accept the WIA Plan Modification 10-07; the WIA Plan Modification 11-01; the 5-Year Plan Authorization to Work; the Employment Service Modification 10-02; Employment Service Modification 11-01; the Food Assistance Employment & Training Plan 12-00; the TANF JET Plan 12-00 as presented by Michael Wyman; supported by Debbie Smith-Olson; motion accepted by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:38 p.m.

Entrepreneurial Activities – Handout (Action Item)

▶ Generation E Entrepreneurial Curriculum

Paul explained that in the last three years, “Entrepreneurship” has really taken off. The Generation E Institute is a non-profit organization based in Battle Creek that offers youth entrepreneurial education programs and consulting services to schools and community-based organizations.

West Central is participating in several entrepreneurial activities including bringing Generation E curriculum/youth entrepreneurship programs into Mecosta and Osceola counties.

Larry Lloyd moved to support the Entrepreneurship programs up to \$2,500; supported by Dan Massy; motion accepted by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:44 p.m.

▶ Mecosta/Osceola “Fast Trac” Entrepreneurial Training

Michelle explained that it is exciting with all the entrepreneurship activity going on around and within Mecosta and Osceola County. Ron Steiner, whom the Boards met at the last meeting, is being brought in to do a free three hour introduction to the “Fast Trac” entrepreneurial curriculum. This presents, informally, information about starting your own business, or expanding your entrepreneurial business. There has been a lot of support from community organizations in Mecosta and Osceola counties for this and is much more than a Michigan Works! initiative – it’s a community initiative.

▶ E-Merge

West Central is also participating with E-Merge, a community-based initiative to support job growth in communities through entrepreneurship, with Newaygo, Mason, Lake, Manistee, Oceana and Muskegon counties participating.

About a week ago Ferris State University launched an entrepreneurial institute; this will cover Big Rapids and Grand Rapids campuses.

▶ West Shore Community College Incubation Initiative

Paul and Michelle will be attending a special event at West Shore Community College in relation to their Incubator Initiative; a study was done by U of M and the results will be presented tonight at 5:00.

Jim Jensen said that several on the West Shore Board of Trustees have pushed for this and are very interested in hearing the report.

Sheri Thompson reported that all these programs run a little differently and all have their own flavor. She commented that the amount of participation of the local workforce in trying to help these young people along is phenomenal. She attended an event this summer with eight participants who had been working on their startup for six to eight weeks and were being mentored by local business people throughout the greater community. After the pitches they met with the local business owners and several businesses offered to help get them on track.

NOTE: Rebecca Stieg left at 1:57 p.m.

Annual Acknowledgement of West Central's Fraud Policy – Mailed Prior

Larry reminded the Board members that the Fraud Policy is presented annually and each individual is asked to sign an acknowledgement; these acknowledgement sheets go to Connie Shoemaker.

Larry also welcomed Colleen Carrington; she is the alternate for Bob Myers.

Business Activity – Handouts

▶ North Lake Correctional Facility, Baldwin

Michelle explained that the North Lake Correctional Facility in Baldwin is no longer housing inmates from the State of California. Michigan Works! West Central coordinated four Rapid Response/Worker Orientation sessions on September 20 & 22, 2011 for employees at the facility.

All but 18 employees were laid off as of October 3, 2011. Six other employees transferred to other GEO facilities. North Lake is aggressively searching for a new contract to bring inmates to the facility.

▶ Valspar, Fremont

West Central was told sometime ago that they were reducing their staff with about 60% of their business going to Ohio. West Central conducted a Rapid Response/Worker Orientation session at their Fremont facility. One more session is planned for early December, as the last remaining employees will be laid off by the end of December because of this plant closure. There are about 19 employees still on staff.

Nancy Griffin asked that Rehabilitation Services be part of the Rapid Response meetings. She will have prepared a fact sheet that can be part of the packet for these meetings.

DHS 48/60 Month Limitations

As of the 1st of October 11,100 cases which affect about 25,000 individuals are reaching either the state 48 or federal 60 month limitations. There was a class action suit filed last Friday by the Center for Civil Justice; the federal judge heard the case and agreed DHS did not give the individuals proper notification. It is understood they will receive their cash assistance for October with the new month their assistance will end being November 1.

Out of the 11,100 only 27 are from the West Central Region. There are 25 Michigan Works! Agencies but with Detroit and Wayne County together there would be 24. Out of this 24 the 11 smallest regions accounted for only 1.5% of this total. There were over 6,500 in Wayne County alone.

They expect approximately 300 new cases every month statewide from now on which means about one a month for our Region.

NOTE: Marie Hall left at 2:12 p.m.

Federal Budget Continuing Resolution

- ▶ Super Committee

Congress did approve a Continuing Resolution which extends the federal budget to November 18, however by November 23 the 12-member Super Committee need to have their report to Congress. The House and Senate then have until December 23 to vote the plan up or down – no amendments, no filibustering. If either fails to do that it puts Congress back to where they have to do across the board cuts.

Workforce Development Agency – Handouts

- ▶ Top Five Targeted Industries

The top five targeted industries are Agriculture, Energy, IT, Healthcare and Manufacturing. The State Workforce Development Agency will concentrate in these five areas having “experts” available across the state helping businesses in these five areas.

NOTE: Joe Frendo left at 2:14 p.m.

- ▶ Michigan #1 in Job Growth

Ann Arbor SPARK set up a business incubator in neighboring Wayne County. The effort moved 16 small companies from Washtenaw to Wayne County, bringing jobs, growing companies, and tax revenue to Wayne County (which had the best facility) while simultaneously bringing new residents and economic impact to SPARK’s home base of Washtenaw County.

Unemployment Insurance Exhausted Claims by County – Handout

Paul gave the Boards a chart showing the number by county/by month of those who will exhaust their unemployment benefits in the next several months.

Ferris State University and Grand Rapids RAPID Transit Partnership – Handout

A new Bus service linking Ferris State University's Big Rapids campus and downtown Grand Rapids started August 29th. Through a partnership with the Grand Rapids based public transit "The Rapid," buses will run Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters when classes are scheduled, with two morning runs and two afternoon runs. This is a two year experiment.

WDB Chair Sheri Thompson Elected to Michigan Works! Association Executive Committee

Larry acknowledged and recognized Sheri Thompson as being re-elected to the Michigan Works! Association Executive Committee. Bill Stanek is emeritus on that Board.

Mailing Packet Items

Lake County Star, September 1, 2011 – "Olson named to state banking post" featuring Deborah Smith-Olson elected Vice-Chair for a one-year term on the Michigan Bankers Association Board of Directors.

Big Rapids Pioneer, September 29, 2011 – "Getting Down to Business – Keeping up with technology" featuring one of Bill Stanek's businesses Living Water Christian Resource Center in downtown Big Rapids.

Next Meeting December 7, 2011 – Reed City Michigan Works! Workforce Service Center

The next joint meeting for the WDB/LEO is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at the Reed City Michigan Works! Workforce Service Center.

Round-the-Table

» Massy, Dan, Osceola Economic Alliance – State Wind Farm with 29 turbines – one was made in Michigan and didn't do very good. We have a little more work to do.

- » Fettig, Grant, Fettig Farm, Newaygo – the nice weather is appreciated; remember this is harvest season and be careful on the road.
- » Scholtens, Sam, Newaygo County Commissioner – a Transportation Study has been completed by the Board of Commissioners but is not officially accepted yet.

- » Warba, Mark, Mayor City of Big Rapids – the Airport continues to do well, and the subsidizing of it is being weaned from the General Fund. The merger with Spectrum has slowed down but may still happen. Enrollment is up at Ferris State University.
- » Carrington, Colleen, Alternate Lake County Commissioner – Idlewild has its 100 year Centennial coming up in 2012.
- » Jensen, Jim, West Shore Community College Trustee – Of the 28 Community Colleges 26 had a decrease in student count, some substantially, however, West Shore Community College had the largest increase, highest student count.
- » Nash, Roger, Harsco Rail – Business has been good and expect things to be better next year.
- » Griffin, Nancy, Rehabilitation Services – Working with Lou Adams with marketing to let people know who we are; 2010/2011 we met and exceed our goals.
- » Lloyd, Larry, Mason/Lake/Oceana ISD – Count week for public schools showed some were up and some were down; things have gone far enough and now with the talk to eliminate personal property tax it would have to be replaced with something.

Other Business

Reserved for the Public

Adjournment

Meeting stands adjourned at 2:28 p.m.