

MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL  
WDB/LEO JOINT MEETING  
LAKE OSCEOLA STATE BANK  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011

MINUTES

LEO Members Present

Courtney, Kevin  
Emig, Larry  
Myers, Robert  
Scholtens, Sam  
Taranko, Wally  
Trapp, Chuck  
Warba, Mark

LEO Members Absent

Nichols, Mary

WDB Members Present

Frost, Jim  
Griffin, Nancy  
Hallenbeck, Chris  
Jensen, Jim  
Kamphuis, Doug  
Lloyd, Larry  
Massy, Dan  
Nash, Roger  
Roubal, Lew  
Smith-Olson, Debbie  
Stanek, Bill  
Thompson, Sheri  
Trucks, Mary

WDB Members Absent

Aultman, Robb  
Bonga, Roger  
Crandall, Sandy  
Ferguson, Tim  
Fettig, Grant  
Stuck, Brian

Michigan Works! West Central Staff

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

Others Present

Allen, Kellie – FBR	Doyle, Joe – Goodwill	Roesler, Darrin – MDOC
Bozeman, Jerri – Hope Network	Frendo, Joe – NCRESA	Stieg, Rebecca – MPRI
Carrington, Colleen – Lake Co alt	Gregory, Chysten – MDOC	Sweigart, Lynda – Hope Network
Charles, Felisha – FBR	Hall, Marie – Eagle Village	Williams, Lisa – Eagle Village
Crum, Moreen – FBR	Mendham, Bob – WC Police Chief	Wood, Janet – Hope Network

Call to Order

After a very interesting and informative tour of the Northlake Correctional Facility (GEO Group) in Baldwin, WDB Chairperson, Sheri Thompson brought the meeting to order at 12:47 p.m. at the Lake Osceola State Bank in Baldwin and thanked the Board members for coming out on this “odd” month because of the snow storm in February. A quorum is present of both the WDB and the LEO.

### Welcome New WDB & LEO Board Members

- ▶ Kevin Courtney, Mecosta County Commissioner
- ▶ Wally Taranko, City of Ludington Councilor
- ▶ Chris Hallenbeck, Ice Mountain
- ▶ Doug Kamphuis, Michigan Department of Corrections
- ▶ Lew Roubal, Mecosta/Osceola County Department of Human Services

Sheri welcomed the new Board members and thanked them for their willingness to become part of these Boards.

### Introduction of Guests

Guests were introduced and welcomed.

### Showcase: MPRI White Cloud Chief of Police Mendham, Chysten Gregory & Darrin Roesler, MDOC

Rebecca explained there are many partners who make the MPRI program a success and up to this point the Board members have not heard from parole supervisors, parole agents or law enforcement. These partners are building great communication to improve the success of these returning citizens.

Chysten Gregory stated she would defer to the staff in Newaygo, because the staff there deserve the credit for the collaboration that has taken place and has worked out so well there in White Cloud.

Darrin Roesler explained that he is referred to as a dual agent because he does both probation and parole in the Newaygo office. The difference between parole & probation – those on parole are offenders coming out of prison and is set by the Parole Board; probation is set by a judge and they are supervised as the judge has ordered. There is more directive with the parolees, if there are any suspected violations we have the authority to detain them or jail them until we can investigate it; whereas with probation the judge must be consulted before anything can be done with them.

His background is in law enforcement and still works part time for the City of Fremont; as law enforcement when a traffic stop is made and marijuana is found, this person will be arrested; when working with parolees we have more leeway to help them instead of putting them back in jail. Behaviors are not changed overnight; it took a long time to get them where they are and it takes a long time to bring them back.

NOTE: Chysten Gregory, Chief Bob Mendham and Darrin Roesler left at 1:19 p.m.

#### Consent Agenda (Action Item)

- Minutes of December 1, 2010 WDB/LEO Joint Meeting – Mailed Prior
- December Financial Report – Mailed Prior/Handout (Goldenrod)

**Larry Emig moved to approve the Minutes of the December 1, 2010 Joint meeting and the December Financial Report as presented; supported by Dan Massy; motion approved unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:18 p.m.**

- ✧ Paul explained that Haworth publishes something called “Client Pieces.” Haworth has done a “Client Piece” on The Stream which has a quote from Paul Griffith and Michigan Works! is mentioned several times in the piece.

#### December Program Reports – Handouts

- ✧ Enrollment/Expenditures Reports
- ✧ PY’10 Second Quarter WIA Performance Standards

Paul explained that on the one-page performance report at the last meeting for the first quarter there were three “red” and all in the youth area. But since it is so early in the year this is not a concern because Eagle Village does an incredible job monitoring and managing their performance; and there are no “red” in the youth area this time.

However there are three “red” in the Adult and Dislocated Worker areas. It was a significant drop so the administrative staff is working with the two adult Service Providers to understand why this happened.

❖ PY’10 Second Quarter WIA Performance by Service Provider

In this report performance is separated by Service Provider giving a subtotal for FBR and for Hope and in some cases HRDI. The total is then given for the region as a whole.

Board members were reminded that Performance Standards are not set by the Michigan Works! Agencies.

❖ PY’09 Annual Enrollments by County

Paul explained this chart gives an idea of the number of individuals enrolled by county, by program in the two different 12-month periods of time.

Plans/Modifications *Summary Blue (Action Item)*

1. ARRA Statewide Activities (Plan 10-00)

DELEG allocated a portion of the ARRA Statewide Activities program funding to the MWAs to assist in serving customers. The funding is restricted to supporting NWLB participants, who are already in training, those on a waiting list when these were active, and to provide core and intensive services to customers. The funding is not to enroll new participants. West Central received \$108,938 of this funding. The Plan accepts this funding.

2. Systems Plan (Plan 11-00)

We had received the System Plan instructions the day of the December meeting. The Plan has been updated. It covers various rules Michigan Works! agencies follow to receive federal funding, like EEO and proper accounting of funding, designates signatory authority to the vice chairs, and designates the One Stop Operator as Michigan Works! West Central. A motion for the Systems

Plan and a separate motion designating Michigan Works! West Central as the One Stop Operator is recommended.

3. WIA Plans (Modification 10-01)

West Central received draft instructions awarding \$3,124 in excess WIA Adult carry over funds from one MWA. A budget revision accepting the funding has been done. No signatures are needed.

4. Incentive Plan (Plan 10-00)

West Central will receive \$10,653 in Incentive funding for WIA PY 09 performance. The funding will be used to support Workforce Service Centers and activities including GED preparation and testing and Michigan Career Readiness testing using WorkKeys. (Only 13 MWAs were eligible to receive this funding.)

5. Food Assistance Employment & Training (Plan Modification 11-01)

The initial instructions for the training and supportive service plans have been received in draft, and plans have been submitted. Funding for the training portion is increased to \$106,640 and funding for supportive services is \$1,985. Referral of candidates by DHS is optional, but Service Providers work with local DHS offices to request referrals of those interested and MPRI customers.

**JANUARY UPDATE:** DELEG instructed Michigan Works! agencies to shut down this program on January 18. Portions of Michigan's plan to the Federal government have not been approved and funding for this program is no longer available. This affects a small number of participants, but is particularly difficult for MPRI customers.

6. TANF (JET Plan Modification 11-01)

DELEG was authorized to release 40% of the General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) funding to support the JET Program. This Modification is in the event a budget revision requiring signature is

required. West Central's portion of this allocation is \$75,752 out of an original allocation of \$189,056. DELEG also released \$59,084 in WIA Statewide Activities funding to support JET.

7. West Central requested an additional \$18,000 in a Budget Adjustment Request for the job seeking workshops being provided by NCRESA our Employment Service Provider to parolees at the Lake County Residential ReEntry Program. The request was denied for lack of funding, but DOC gave the area the option to revise line items within the approved budget which has been done.
8. Incumbent Worker training at West Shore Community College for six companies is going well, but the last sessions have been delayed, as the instructor suffered a detached retina. The training time will need to be extended for this project. We are working with several companies for further training. Dan Massy had another possibility we will be meeting with in Osceola County later this week. Incumbent Worker funding from the state, which requires the workers to register for WIA remains available and we continue to talk to companies and schools about the possibility of doing more training.

**Bill Stanek moved to designate Michigan Works! West Central as the one-stop operator for all five Centers; supported by James Jensen; motion accepted unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:37 p.m.**

**Larry Emig moved to give signatory authority to WDB Vice Chair Bill Stanek, LEO Vice Chair Mark Warba and Executive Director Paul Griffith; supported by Robert Myers; motion accepted unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:38 p.m.**

**Jim Frost moved to accept the ARRA Statewide Activities, the Systems Plan 11-00, the WIA Modification 10-01, the Incentive Plan 10-00, the Food Assistance Employment & Training Plan 11-01, the TANF JET 11-01 and the MPRI Modification as presented by Michael**

**Wyman; supported by Roger Nash; motion accepted by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:39**

p.m.

PY'10 Revised Budget – Mailed Prior – Handout (Action Item)

Brigette explained this chart provides an overview of the initial allocations, the final allocations and actual expenditures for the last Program Year; and an overview of the current Program Year with the July allocations, the estimated final allocations and the projected expenditures and then a projected Final Budget that needs Board approval.

The second page offers more detail for West Central's budget.

This is brought to the Boards twice a year; at the next meeting a budget will be brought for the projection for the next Program Year.

**Larry Emig moved to accept the PY'10 Revised Budget as presented by Brigitte Reed; supported by Sam Scholtens; motion accepted by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:43 p.m.**

Sheri thanked Brigitte and her staff for the fine job and bringing all these numbers together for the Boards.

Federal Funding Status – March 4<sup>th</sup> Continuing Resolution Deadline – Handout (Action Item)

Sheri said this has obviously been in the news a lot lately and will continue to be; Larry, Paul and Sheri met March 1 to discuss this happening and would like to explain some of their thoughts.

Paul explained that the federal budget has an October 1, September 30 cycle and as happens frequently when October 1 comes round, last year Congress could not agree on a budget so several Continuing Resolutions with varying lengths were passed in the last several months. This latest one is at least the fourth one which has a March 4<sup>th</sup> deadline for a new budget passed by Congress and signed by the President. The House basically along party lines would cut \$61 billion from the present budget which goes back to last October. In that \$61 billion is a \$4 billion complete elimination of the

Workforce Investment Act, so the WIA Adult, WIA Dislocated Worker and WIA Youth would be eliminated which represents a major part of the Michigan Works! funding. There would still be Jobs, Education and Training (JET), Trade Act (TA) and Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative (MPRI) but clearly a major portion would be lost. In Michigan there are over 100 and Nationwide over 3,000 One Stop/Career Centers/Workforce Service Centers – a variety of names nationwide. If that resolution passed by the House, approved by the Senate (which has not happened) and approved by the President, in essence the doors would be shut at West Central. It is a concern and should not be minimized. West Central needs to be part of the solution and be proactive. An activity list has been compiled for the Boards' consideration.

The One-Stops are forward funded and West Central has been told by the state that the State of Michigan already has all the WIA funding that the state is eligible for through June 30. The shut down would be July 1 and there would be some carry over so could possibly go through July or August – every MWA would be at a different place with this.

Sam Scholten asked for some talking points since the Commissioners are going to Washington very soon; Michelle will get these done immediately.

**Robert Myers moved to proceed with the activities to promote Michigan Works! in reference to the Federal Funding Status and Continuing Resolution; supported by Mary Trucks; motion accepted by both the WDB and the LEO. 2:18 p.m.**

#### Governor Synder's Executive Order Re: DELEG

Paul explained that last Wednesday the Governor signed an Executive Order that would break up DELEG – they are moving what is currently called the Bureau of Workforce Transformation, which will be renamed Workforce Development Agency and will be moved under the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. There is a 60-day clock that started last Wednesday because the Senate can override it, though it is highly unlikely that will happen.

NOTE: Wally Taranko left at 2:20 p.m.

### 2011 Alumni Celebration – Handout

West Central's Alumnus for 2011 was Eagle Village's Amanda Smith who is now employed by Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Hospital. Eagle Village was able to arrange a work experience opportunity for Amanda in the surgical unit. Her hard work paid off when the hospital offered her permanent employment.

### Business Activity – Handouts

#### ▶ North Lake Correctional Facility, Baldwin

Michelle Herron explained that the North Lake Correctional Facility is still on target for their first round of inmates arriving May 1<sup>st</sup>. Michelle has created a one page document that lists all of the jobs the GEO Group is currently hiring with the associated wages and posted on our website. A small orientation was done at the end of February and will hold another orientation at the end of March for much of the security staff they are hiring. In regard to the security staff the WorkKeys assessment is being done on each one of these individuals and everyone has been scoring very well.

#### ▶ Pumped Storage Facility, Ludington

Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison will make an \$800 million investment in the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant in the next 10 years, allowing the plant to pair with renewable energy sources more effectively.

#### ▶ Self-Serve Lumber, Reed City

With stores in 18 locations around the state, Self Serve Lumber and Home Center is about to open its 19<sup>th</sup> store in Reed City.

▶ Insight Teleservices, Big Rapids

Insight Teleservices which was a call center in Big Rapids and employed about 40 individuals has closed due to the failure of a major piece of equipment that cost too much to replace in order to keep this call center open.

▶ PGW, Ewart

Pittsburgh Glass Works (PGW) announced on March 1 the company will re-open its facility in Ewart due to an increased demand for automotive glass products; this will involve about 50 jobs.

MPRI State 2010 Progress Report – Handout

Rebecca Stieg reported that Michigan is moving in the direction of alternative sanctions and rehabilitation to prevent costly incarceration when possible.

Since the MPRI began the rate of parolees returning to prison for new crimes or technical violations is at its lowest level since record-keeping began 23 years ago. Even though there are more parolees, the number returning to prison for new crimes fell from 2,020 in 2006 to a projected 1,836 in 2010.

Before the MPRI, one in two parolees returned to prison within three years. That has improved to one in three. About 2,800 fewer parolees have returned to prison than would have been expected prior to the MPRI.

Michigan's prison population grew by nearly 500% between 1973 and 2003; the number of prisoners has safely declined by almost 7,500 since March 2007 and is at its lowest level since 1999.

Part of the savings has been reinvested in community resources for supervising returning prisoners and helping them succeed.

Rebecca pointed out that two of our local mentors are mentioned in this report (page 22) Paul & Marilyn Vance in the Baldwin area who are working with a sex offender to get his driver's license,

find a job and be rehabilitated. They hope that “those that are being mentored will somewhere along the line be able to help someone else.”

#### ✧ Central Area MPRI Report

Rebecca stated that about half the people returning have significant health issues and MPRI is getting great support from the Baldwin Family Health Care facility. There has been a small dip in the employment rate which is typical for this time of year.

#### Governor Synder’s Dashboard – Handout

Paul explained the summary for the Governor’s Dashboard is a good place to check on the web for information and detailed charts on the progress the state is making.

NOTE: Jim Jensen left at 2:43 p.m.

#### West Central’s Facebook

Michelle stated that West Central’s Facebook can be found at [www.facebook.com/michiganworkswestcentral](http://www.facebook.com/michiganworkswestcentral)

Michelle explained that we needed 25 people to “like” our page and we got up to 27 today. Hopefully a Facebook link will be created on our Michigan Works! website so people can connect that way as well.

NOTE: Jim Frost and Roger Nash left at 2:44 p.m.

#### Trade Act Changes

Mike explained that Trade Act is for people who have lost their job due to imports; their company petitions the government to say their place is closing because of imports and if the government agrees the company/plant/employer is certified as a Trade plant and those workers have access to training at the rate of up to \$15,000 a year.

The old law allowed 104 weeks of training plus 26 weeks of remediation – the Recovery Reinvestment Act amended the Trade Act and allowed them to go to school for 156 weeks; the Recovery Act is expiring, so it now goes back to the old law, the new petitions are back to 104 weeks of training. Whatever the certification number and which law it falls under that is the law that applies to those people for life. Health insurance under the old law was a 65% tax credit to help sustain health insurance; the new law allowed 80% didn't matter what the petition number was it was 80% for everyone; new “old” law everyone drops back to 65%. There is also less groups eligible for certification; for example, call centers were added under the new law, now they are off the list.

There are five certified petitions in the West Central region – Fluid Routing Solutions in Big Rapids, Evert Glass Plant, Reed City Tool, Straits Steel & Wire in Ludington, and Ventra in Evert.

NOTE: Larry Lloyd left at 2:52 p.m.

#### GED Update – Handout

Paul explained that Hope Network continues to do great work with the GED program. An unsolicited letter was received thanking the “awesome” people who helped make it possible; four staff are mentioned and a card was sent to each of them individually.

#### December Unemployment Rates by County and State – Handout

National and State unemployment came down from November, while in the 5-county West Central region only Mecosta and Newaygo came down.

#### Election Results of LEO Chair & Vice Chair

Larry Emig reported that the LEO met prior to the joint meeting; he was reelected Chair and Mark Warba was reelected Vice Chair.

NOTE: Mary Trucks left at 2:55 p.m.

### Resignation of WDB Member Scott Goward

Scott Goward submitted his resignation from the WDB and even though we are not pleased to see him resign, it is a pleasure to welcome Chris Hallenbeck as his replacement.

### Mailing Packet Items

One-page information from the Service Providers.

Newspaper article Big Rapids Pioneer, January 6, 2011 – *Interim board member named* features Sheri Thompson – MOISD chooses former RCAPS board member to fill seat until June.

### Updated WDB & LEO Membership Lists – Handout

There are new members in both the WDB and the LEO, so new lists were distributed.

### Next Meeting June 1, 2011 – West Shore Community College, Scottville

Due to the cancellation of the February 2 meeting February & April meetings were combined; the next meeting will be Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at West Shore Community College in Scottville.

#### ▶ 2011 Meeting Schedule – Handout

An updated 2011 WDB/LEO Joint Meeting Schedule was distributed.

### Round-the-Table

- » Griffith, Nancy, MI Rehabilitation Services – MRS served 51,473 adults with disabilities last year, 3,754 employed at an average wage of \$13.17 per hour – they served over 5,000 youth with 1,504 being employed.
- » Smith-Olson, Debbie, Lake Osceola State Bank – Spring has come, the Dairy Queen is open and people on the fringe are getting employed. There is a new coordinator for the Baldwin Promise and Lake County has a new six and a half minute promotional video depicting tourist activities.

- » Myers, Lake County Commissioner – Lake County is developing a web page to let people know about our county.
- » Massy, Dan, Osceola Economic Alliance – Glass Plant in Ewart is reopening; Family Farm & Fleet has opened right next to McDonald's.
- » Warba, Mayor City of Big Rapids – congratulations to Lake County with the GEO Group opening. The City of Big Rapids will have to absorb about a half million dollars in budget cuts. The new hanger at the airport may be able to house another helicopter in the third hanger. FRS may be eligible for a MEGA Grant to retain 200 jobs at the Big Rapids Plant. Maple Street bridge will be getting some repairs this summer and next summer the Baldwin Street bridge which also needs repairs.
- » Hallenbeck, Chris, Ice Mountain, Mecosta Plant – thanks to Michigan Works! for help with seasonal hiring.
- » Courtney, Kevin, Mecosta County Commissioner – radio campaign featuring the Pure Michigan ads has started which hopefully will have a very positive effect on our tourism activity this summer. The US Forestry ruling that would not allow hunting or snowmobiles or motorcycles affects 60,000 acres and even though it is on land along the Pere Marquette River it affects people coming to Big Rapids.

#### Other Business

#### Reserved for the Public

#### Adjournment

**Meeting stands adjourned at 3:07 p.m.**