

MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL
WDB/LEO JOINT MEETING
BIG RAPIDS WORKFORCE SERVICE CENTER
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2011

MINUTES

LEO Members Present

Courtney, Kevin
Emig, Larry
Myers, Robert
Taranko, Wally

LEO Members Absent

Nichols, Mary
Scholtens, Sam
Trapp, Chuck
Warba, Mark

WDB Members Present

Bonga, Roger
Fettig, Grant
Griffin, Nancy
Hallenbeck, Chris
Kamphuis, Doug
Lloyd, Larry
Massy, Dan
Smith-Olson, Debbie
Stanek, Bill
Thompson, Sheri

WDB Members Absent

Crandall, Sandy
Ferguson, Tim
Frost, Jim
Jensen, Jim
Nash, Roger
Roubal, Lew
Stuck, Brian
Trucks, Mary

Michigan Works! West Central Staff

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

Others Present

Bozeman, Jerri – Hope Network	Dewispelaere, Sadie – Goodwill	Steiner, Ron – Starting Block
Burnett, Cynthia – Goodwill	Gaietto, Cyndi – Goodwill	Wood, Janet – Hope Network
Charles, Felisha – FBR	Gibbs, Ken – Brill Mfg	Wyers, Kirk – NCRESA
Crum, Moreen – FBR	Hall, Marie – Eagle Village	

Call to Order

WDB Chairperson, Sheri Thompson brought the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. at the Big Rapids Workforce Service Center. A quorum is present of the WDB but not the LEO.

Introduction of Guests

Guests were introduced and welcomed.

Welcome Ken Gibbs, General Manager, The Brill Company, Ludington

Sheri welcomed Ken Gibbs and asked him to share some information with the Boards.

Among other things, Ken stated that Ferris State University is one of their customers and they furnished the new apartments that were built on the southeast corner of campus last summer.

Connie explained to the Boards that on June 8th she fell in the parking lot and got a rather large black eye; while still on the examining table just after they had determined that her nose was not broken, she received a call that her husband, Darrell, had a heart attack and was being sent to Grand Rapids.

The first heart attack he did fine, but the stint clotted off and caused another heart attack. That one ended up with him on the ventilator and in an induced coma for about a month. During that month he did have open heart surgery to repair and replace valves in his heart. Last week Thursday, July 28th, he was transferred to Metron in Big Rapids for rehabilitation. God willing he should come home the end of next week. The support and prayer support of Paul, the Board Chairs, co-workers, Service Providers and Partners made all the difference – all of them are much more than “co-workers” they are friends.

Showcase: The Starting Block – Ron Steiner, Director

Ron Steiner explained that he is with the MSU Extension and when the opportunity came up to start a “kitchen incubator” and once the grant was received he stepped up to get things started. This kitchen allows our clients to commercialize “grandma’s recipe” – this is the story of most of the clients. They can rent kitchen time with zero capital investment, with a kitchen manager to assist them if they ask for the help.

Much has been learned – incubators are not a one-size fits all – gives just what is needed. The clients have a “can do” attitude. They epitomize Yoda’s saying, “do or do not, there is no try.”

When a business plan is needed we will help them with it, but not a requirement to get started.

A study is currently underway exploring whether West Shore Community College should establish an incubator. They will be having a focus group on the 26th of this month, a listening session, for input on what is needed.

Consent Agenda (Action Item)

- Minutes of June 1, 2011 WDB/LEO Joint Meeting – Mailed Prior
- June Financial Report – Mailed Prior/Handout (Goldenrod)

Larry Lloyd moved to approve the Minutes of the June 1, 2011 Joint meeting and the June Financial Report as presented; supported by Debbie Smith-Olson; motion approved unanimously by the WDB and those present of the LEO. 1:13 p.m.

Paul noted that the FY October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011 report at the top of the page is not the Final – this program is only three quarters through.

June Program Reports – Handouts

- ✧ Enrollment/Expenditures Reports

Paul stated the all the WIA programs are now 100% complete; Brigette has done a slight modification with a footnote at the bottom of these reports “Budget adjusted to reflect actual expenditures...”

Hope Network had money left over, which in this case is a good thing because of the financial issues and the cut that Congress enacted in April that’s retroactive to October 2010. Because of this the State allowed the Michigan Works! Agencies to carry-over up to 35% instead of the typical 15% maximum; West Central will carry-over about 26%. Also the State distributed to all the MWAs some state set-aside funding they had not obligated yet to assist the MWAs in getting through the July – September period which is the time period all of the WIA Adult & Dislocated Worker cuts need to be taken.

The Welfare Reform report shows that West Central is slightly above the Entered Employment Rate for all the state – the State (all the MWAs) is at 28% and West Central is 29%.

For the 90-Day Retention, West Central is exactly the same as the state average, however with DHS Case Closures, West Central is almost double the state average.

No footnote for NCRESA because they did spend all their money.

There will be some funds left from the Goodwill contract. It should be noted that the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative (MPRI) is now simply Prisoner Reentry (PR).

❖ PY'10 Third Quarter WIA Performance Standards by Service Providers

Paul reiterated that since we have two Adult Service Providers, we need to look at their individual performance; this will indicate if one Service Provider is carrying a disproportionate share of the performance load. While there are some differences between the two Providers, it is not substantial.

Plans/Modifications *Summary Blue (Action Item)*

1. WIA Plans (Modification 10-06) Update

As reported earlier, West Central has been watching the budget and expenditures between Adult and Dislocated Worker programs for some time, knowing it would be necessary to move some Dislocated Worker funding to the Adult program. This Modification continues to authorize this transfer. Update: The modification has been approved by the State.

2. WIA Plans (Plan 11-00) Update

We have received draft allocations for PY 2011. When ARRA and SAG funding are considered, the PY 2011 allocations are down significantly. In response to this the Workforce Development Agency (WDA) is raising the carry-in limitation for PY 2010 to 35% from the traditional 15%. This will help reduce the reductions for Adult and Dislocated Worker programs going into the new

Program Year July 1. All programs will have a lower base allocation to work from in PY 2011. The final allocations have been received.

3. Employment Services (Plan 11-00) Update & Modification

We received draft instructions for the Employment Service Plan. Estimated funding is about the same as last year. Final Instructions were received and the plan submitted. We will be doing a modification to show actual carry in funding.

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

There have been changes to the Food Assistance Employment & Training program which will be done in a plan modification expected to be released soon. The changes set a limit of \$2,000 per participant. Preapproval is requested.

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

We anticipate instructions for next year's Food Assistance Employment & Training plan, which begins October 1, prior to the next WDB/LEO meeting. Preapproval is requested.

6. TANF (JET Plan 12-00)

We anticipate instructions for next year's JET plan, which begins October 1, prior to the next WDB/LEO meeting. Preapproval is requested.

Bill Stanek moved to preapprove the Food Assistance Employment & Training Plan Modification 11-01; the Food Assistance Employment & Training Plan 12-00; TANF JET Plan 12-00; supported by Robert Myers; motion accepted unanimously by the WDB and those present of the LEO. 1:25 p.m.

NOTE: Beth McCleary left at 1:25 p.m.

Prisoner Re-entry Program Update – Handouts

Paul stated this report is through the end of June and again this covers nine counties. During this time 204 participants have been served with 733 units of service. Housing is a big expense because it is a big need.

The Muskegon Community Health Project does mini and full assessments.

Cyndi Gaietto explained that during the month of June three people lost their job but of 151 active participants 77 were employed. In reference to Supportive Services, there are cases when a participant can go out and get a job but they will be able to get disability so it is not necessary to get them a job, so there is a switch back and forth between PR enrolled employment supportive services and just supportive services. If in a couple months they have not gotten disability then they would switch back.

Doug Kamphuis stated that some of the reentry steps will start earlier; evaluate their needs and what is needed. Too many times they reach the Parole Board and they don't have their program met so their parole is delayed. These are parolees that are designated for the Reentry Program – those designated as moderate or high risk; this is not all that are being released.

NOTE: Sadie Dewispelaere left at 1:40

Business Activity – Handouts

▶ Fremont Biomass Digester

Michelle stated that NOVI Energy has broken ground on a \$22 million alternative energy biomass power plant in Fremont, one of the first large-scale anaerobic digesters in the United States. Through an anaerobic bacteria method using food processing waste, the plant will generate nutrient concentrate to be sold as agricultural fertilizer and methane gas for energy production, processing 400 tons of waste per day and generating approximately three megawatts of electricity – enough to power 1,500 homes.

▶ Yoplait, Reed City

Yoplait \$20 million expansion of a milk processing plant is “full steam ahead.” This will be the first such yogurt company in the US to have its own milk processing plant on site.

▶ North Lake Correctional Facility, Baldwin

West Central currently completed about 22 WorkKeys assessments for their Correctional Officer candidates – with a total of approximately 145 WorkKeys assessments done for the GEO Group. Now they have asked West Central to do GED testing for their inmates, this hopefully will be started before the end of the year. North Lake currently has 175 employees and 270 inmates are housed there.

▶ Spectrum Health/Gerber Memorial Hospital, Fremont

West Central met with the employees on June 29th and since learned that the transition will take place during January to June 2012 – not July to December this year which we were originally told. This involves 20 employees and 15 came to the meeting. Starting in January 2012 those 20 positions will be absorbed by the current staff in Grand Rapids and those positions will not exist in that form at Gerber Memorial.

▶ Other

West Central has a Facebook page and Michelle encouraged the Boards to “like” our page. We are up to 65 people who like our page. This has been a good avenue to get out information.

GED Update – Handout

Paul explained that West Central has tested about five to six thousand workers or job applicants in WorkKeys. More information will be given at the next meeting.

The GED program offered by West Central only covers two counties – Mecosta & Osceola counties and hopefully in the near future will also include North Lake Correctional Facility. This

quarter 58 examinees were tested, with 34 completing all five tests, 30 passing all five tests and 24 receiving their GED certificate.

DHS Public Assistance County Data – Handout

◇ 48 Month Time Limit

Legislation has not happened yet but as of October 1, 2011 services for those on public assistance for 48 months will be taken off cash assistance.

The Michigan League of Human Services has put out an estimate that suggests that about 15% of the DHS caseload would be affected by the 48 Month Time Limit.

Global Career Development Facilitator Training – Handout

There are two curriculums in the United States that are recognized – one is the Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) Training. West Central has made it a goal to ultimately have 100% of front line staff go through that process. It is not lengthy, but is intense – 150 hours. Eagle Village is at 100% – FBR is at 89% – Hope at 100% and NCRESA is at 60% but this percentage will drop because unfortunately Rosa is leaving to take the position of Migrant Service Worker, but will still be located in the Fremont Center.

NOTE: NCRESA can only send one or two staff at the most, since they are responsible to staff the five Centers and Satellite office every work day.

2010/2011 Customer Count – Handout

This chart shows the activity at our Centers; there was a drop in the customer walk-ins from Program Year 2009/2010 to 2010/2011, in effect reverting back to about the same count as 2008/2009. This may be a general reflection of the economy.

2-1-1 Public Service Commission Approval – Handout

Mason County has had 2-1-1 for a couple years; however last week the Michigan Public Service Commission approved the Community Access Line of the Lakeshore (CALL) in Muskegon as the answering center for 2-1-1 calls from Lake, Mecosta, Newaygo and Osceola counties. (Mason County has had 2-1-1 service for over two years.) Organizers now will begin coordinating with landline and cell phone companies in those four counties to ensure that 2-1-1 calls are routed correctly. Michigan is among those states that have 80% of their population covered with 2-1-1 service.

Michigan 2-1-1 partnered with MSU's Business School to create a ten-year Net Present Value model for benefits, where studies and data were available. Michigan is the first state to attempt to quantify the value of a 2-1-1 service for key stakeholders.

West Central financially supports this endeavor and has found that any time our customers have fewer issues to interfere with their training or work, we are all better off. It's good for everyone including those who are employed but don't need or use any of our services.

Education Pays – Handout

The last Education Pays chart was 2005 – this new one with 2010 data shows the wide gap between those with some form of post-secondary education and those who have a high school diploma or less.

2010 County Census Data – Handout

Paul explained that 44 counties gained population and 39 counties lost population. 12 of the 15 counties in the UP lost population; the counties that did gain are where the universities are located, and in Baraga they have a casino. All five counties in the West Central region gained population.

Community College/ Four Year University Degree Granting Partnership – Handout

Grand Rapids Community College will allow students to get diplomas retroactively – if students have completed at least 45 credits and have completed the other necessary credits at a 4-year institution. There are people out there who have enough credits to receive a degree; it's getting the word out so they can take advantage of this offer. Several other Community Colleges and four year institutions are looking into also offering this opportunity.

June Unemployment Rates by County – Handout

All of the five counties as well as the National and State of Michigan rates went up from last month. It is a little disturbing that June unemployment rates went up instead of down, since we are clearly in the construction/tourism time of the year.

Mailing Packet Items

One-page information from the Service Providers.

Next Meeting October 5, 2011 – Fremont Michigan Works! Workforce Service Center

The next joint meeting for the WDB/LEO is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at the Fremont Michigan Works! Workforce Service Center.

Round-the-Table

- » Fetting, Grant, Fetting Farm, Newaygo – this has been a strange growing season for agriculture especially for the hay; fruit looks good and remember this is fair season.
- » Lloyd, Larry, Mason/Lake/Oceana ISD – schools are trying to stay ahead of the State with all the cuts and all the decisions in Lansing affecting education.

- » Bonga, Roger, Magna Donnelly – business is strong; hiring salary positions; currently have over 800 employees.
- » Smith-Olson, Debbie, Lake Osceola State Bank – tourism in Lake County has not been very good with the gas prices so high, the uncertainties of jobs, not enough money to spend; it has been a very slow start to the summer season; even tourism statewide is down.
- » Courtney, Kevin, Mecosta County Commissioner – contract with GEO management to purchase local vegetables. Corn growth is behind – need tall corn for a maze.
- » Hallenbeck, Chris, Ice Mountain – very slow start to summer, however July was very strong.
- » Stanek, Bill, Living Water Christian Resources, Big Rapids – retail has been slow; the Downtown Business Association hired a new Director.
- » Thompson, Sheri, Thompson Milk Hauling – continue to drink milk; seek out the 4-H Fairs and support them.
- » Myers, Bob, Lake County Commissioner – the people of Lake County have been a model of patience, hanging in there and staying hopeful.
- » Taranko, Wally – City of Ludington Councilman – boating has been down as has the poundage for the fishing tournaments and the marinas have not been full. FloraCraft is expanding; a wind-farm in two townships Riverton & Summit should eventually go; and Consumers pump storage is redoing six turbines.
- » Griffin, Nancy, Rehabilitation Services – MRS is now fully staffed.
- » Gibbs, Ken, Brill Manufacturing – FloraCraft and Whitehall Industries are both going strong; Brill Manufacturing will also be doing some hiring.

Other Business

Reserved for the Public

Adjournment

Meeting stands adjourned at 2:28 p.m.