

MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL
EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP (EAG)
NEWAYGO COUNTY REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY (NCRESA)
HESPERIA ROOM – FREMONT
HOSTED BY NCRESA
TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2008

Minutes

Members Present

Corey, Nicole (arrived 12:14 p.m.)
Collins, Patricia
Fettig, Grant
Golden, Joleen
Harrison, Jennifer
Hummel, Carolyn
Oldfield, Tom
Pinkerton, James
Robinson, Michael
Roman, Angela
Thompson, Sheri
Wyers, Kirk

Members Absent

Christophersen, Walter
Frederick, Kaye
Hall, Kevin
Hatchew, Laurie
Massy, Dan
Myers, Linda
Newell, Carolyn
Stanek, William
Weiss, Julie
Withers, Mary

Michigan Works! West Central Staff

Shoemaker, Connie
Wyman, Michael

Others Present

Tower, Sandy – NCRESA

Call to Order/Roll Call

EAG Chairperson James Pinkerton called the meeting to order at 11:16 a.m. at the Newaygo County Educational Service Agency in Fremont. Members and guests were introduced and welcomed. Roll Call indicates a quorum is present.

Jim complimented Kirk Wyers for the beautiful setup of the room and thanked him for hosting the EAG meeting.

Minutes of April 27, 2007 EAG Meeting – (Mailed Prior)

Kirk Wyers moved to accept the Minutes of April 27, 2007 EAG meeting as printed; supported by Tom Oldfield; motion unanimously accepted. 11:20 a.m.

Carl Perkins Funding Ferris State University

Tom Oldfield explained that Ferris is working with a five-year plan, developing measurements that can assess whether goals are being reached. Last year Ferris had a grant of about \$360,000, this year it is down to \$219,852. The reason for that is that the number of Pell Grant recipients in the two-year program are dropping.

For the proposal this year Ferris is working on some of the core performance indicators, as most institutions, the challenges faced are related to those students enrolled in non-traditional programs. For example women in technology or men in nursing – most institutions struggle with this. One thing that has been done for the last two years is the female faculty in the college of technology has formed a group that supports the female students for women in technology. They make themselves available to go out and talk to high schools about career opportunities in technology and some of the challenges they may face; they also work with Girl Scout troops.

Ferris matches the Grant of \$219,000 with \$215,000 – most of the money from the Perkins Grant goes into support instruction (tutoring for students) which has been very successful in math in particular. The remaining dollars are used to purchase equipment for the two year programs.

Tech Prep

Tom Oldfield explained that last year's allocation was around \$100,000 – some of the most important activities are the Career Tech Contextual Learning – sessions are held throughout the fall on best practices where teachers from the various districts get together and discuss the best practices in their field. Also this will support summer camps for students – some are day long camps and some are week long camps – these camps include criminal justice, CAD and manufacturing which provide students an opportunity to learn more about these different careers and also get a feel for college life.

Kirk interjected that an entrepreneurial camp which is a spin off of the traditional career pathways is also planned. Mike Robinson explained that a different audience is targeted and they are working on a younger audience as well. However the Tech Prep dollars are spent on grades 11 & 12.

Jennifer Harrison explained that the MOISD is also planning summer camps, as well, such as the teachers' academy which gives them the opportunity to learn about career and technology education and earn additional credits for their certification.

Tom Oldfield stated that an educators' conference is hosted in the fall and support attendance at the National Tech Prep conference – this year it is the Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE) conference.

Tom said the Region 7 partnership is a model, the way the group works with West Shore and the Career Center partners, it is a great, successful working relationship.

Carl Perkins Funding West Shore

Pat Collins from West Shore explained that the Perkins funding is down basically because there were less Pell grants given this year which affect the formula to calculate the funding. This year's funding is \$85,842 and West Shore will match it with \$59,187. The \$59,187 comes from the capital equipment budget so it will be spent on equipment. Most of the equipment is going for manufacturing, as the manufacturing program is changing to an "open entry/open exit" and will be all modular. The federal money will be mostly spent on special populations – it covers activities, salaries, supports tutors and extra equipment the special population students need. The MOIS system will be purchased again at \$750.

West Shore is now required to have a national standardized outcome assessment for all the occupational programs. NOCTI has always been used for those who did not have a license or certification so West Shore is a head of the game for right now. NOCTI is recognized as the gold standard although the state is talking about doing some of their tests.

Carl Perkins Funding ISDs

Jennifer Harrison explained that total Perkins funding for the ISDs was \$352,898 and allocated by ISD – Mason Lake ISD \$110,104; Mecosta Osceola ISD \$132,337; & Newaygo ISD \$110,457 – this money will go towards Para-Pro salaries and benefits. This is a clean and easy way to allocate this funding and assures special populations, non traditional and students who need special tutoring will get the help they need. The local match is written for \$58,932 but in actuality it is much higher than that with all the Career Centers do to support the fundamentals of CTE Perkins.

Academic integration has been a priority this year; all three partners have been working on math curriculum alignment, there has been a very strong representation of the faculty in the segmenting groups. In Lansing, they know Region 7 is being proactive in matters of curriculum.

The movement has begun on the implementation of WorkKeys in the Centers and as a Region we are together on the workplace readiness skills certificates.

Next year the ISDs will be under Perkins IV which is far different than Perkins III in the respect that it is more stringent and fewer dollars will be allocated, every year it goes down.

Jim asked how the emphasis on the academics in math affect the enrollments in the tech programs? This is the first group so the affect has not been evident yet.

Mike Robinson explained there is still controversy over what high schools want, but CTE is a very important element and represents 36% of all kids in public high school. The ISDs are looking at integrating a curriculum and credits and there is also talk about career readiness specific. The ISDs are trying to make a natural alignment and let it massage into the final requirement.

This is driven by both the state and the No Child Left Behind.

Mike explained there is a real movement to be sure that CTE is not left out; but with the integrated curriculum and this embedded recognition, it is likely that the state and legislature will recognize it as an important point in a way that will bring them together.

Region 7 truly has an advantage with Ferris State University and West Shore Community College, both of whom play a very important roll and offer many opportunities to our students.

Mike Wyman noted that there is a misperception of the “college ed track” and the “career center track,” a large portion of career technical students do go on to college.

Jennifer pointed out that this past year, the entire state failed in both of the non-traditional core performance indicators. As far as reporting for “Perkins Students” who are signing up for non-traditional programs and students who are completing non-traditional programs, the state has redefined how this is calculated, so this does factor in. Opportunities need to be made available for young men and women to know they can pursue and get support in any career in technical education. The ISDs are looking to remove barriers to these young men and women and encourage them in their chosen career.

Sheri Thompson moved to accept the Carl Perkins for Ferris State University, West Shore Community College & the ISDs and to accept the Tech Prep as presented; supported by Grant Fettig; motion accepted unanimously. 11:56 a.m.

Youth Council Report

Mike Wyman explained that one of the duties of the EAG is to be the Youth Council for the Workforce Development Board. The struggle continues to be with the older youth and this is the one program under WIA that maintains income eligibility.

Eagle Village will be serving 201 participants with a budget of \$633,000 for this Program Year. Many of the youth lack a high school diploma or GED so training funds are being used prior to job placement. College enrollments have also increased and training approval is based on occupations that are in-demand for the local area.

Reserved for the Public

Other Business

Next Meeting

The next meeting and location will be determined at a later date.

Adjournment

Chairman Jim Pinkerton thanked Kirk Wyers for hosting the EAG meeting and for the lunch that is being provided.

Meeting stands adjourned at 11:58 a.m.