

MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL  
WDB/LEO JOINT MEETING  
BIG RAPIDS WORKFORCE SERVICE CENTER  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016

MINUTES

LEO Members Present

Byl, Larry  
Castonia, Gary  
Emig, Larry  
Howard, Linda  
Trapp, Chuck  
Warba, Mark

LEO Members Absent

Andersen, Janet  
Ortwein, Chris  
Walls, Karl

WDB Members Present

Booyinga, Voni  
Eisler, David  
Griffin, Nancy  
Hampton, Heidi  
Kosheba, Dan  
Massy, Dan  
Merriam, David  
Nolan, Don  
Pasley, Julia  
Roberts, Carla  
Romanowski, Cynthia  
Smith-Olson, Debbie  
Thompson, Sheri  
Visser, William  
Vyse-Staszak, Janet

WDB Members Absent

Andrus, Amy  
Cherry, Ralph  
Cooper, David  
Ferguson, Tim  
Marek, Ron  
Splane, Rob  
Stark, Liz  
Trucks, Mary

Michigan Works! West Central Staff

Bennett, Merri	Griffith, Paul	Rasmussen, Michelle
Reed, Brigitte	Shoemaker, Connie	

Others Present

Albanesi, Angie – Hope Network	Sandy, Jim – MEDC
Campbell, Rebecca – Hope Network	Spedowske, Gretchen – NCRESA
Daly, Jennifer – NC RESA	Wickings, Greg – Hope Network
	WIOA Participant

Call to Order

LEO Chairperson, Larry Emig brought the joint meeting of the Workforce Development Board/Local Elected Officials to order at 12:40 p.m. at the Big Rapids Workforce Service Center. A quorum is present of both the WDB and the LEO.

## Introduction of Guests

Guests were introduced and welcomed.

## Consent Agenda (Action Item)

- ◇ Minutes of June 1, 2016 WDB/LEO Joint Meeting – Emailed Prior
- ◇ June Financial Report – Emailed Prior/Handout (Goldenrod)

**Dan Massy moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented; supported by Chuck Trapp; motion accepted unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 12:42 p.m.**

## Showcase: WIOA Participant – Pine Rest Hospital, Greg Wickings, Case Manager, Hope Network

Greg Wickings introduced his WIOA participant.

The WIOA participant explained that she is currently a Registered Nurse with Pine Rest Hospital. Long before she became a nurse she was a child of the foster system and was raised in five foster care homes. After getting out of the foster care system she was placed with her biological father and her stepmother but the cycle of abuse did not stop there. She was married by 16 and divorced by 17 and homeless at 19.

During the time between 19 and 21 she was on the “fast track to nowhere”; at 21 some life changing events happened, she realized she needed to change where she was in her life or she was going to end up dead. She started with the Michigan Works! Program at the age of 23 after some other leaps and bounds of growth. She started in St Johns and learned how to write a resume, a cover letter, a thank you letter and how to give an appropriate interview. This is where she started to build her self-esteem and her confidence that she was actually capable of doing something more with her life than what she had been doing.

She moved from St Johns to the Big Rapids area because she had met and married her husband and they decided it was a good move for him to come to Ferris State University. Her husband started the process of getting his degree; he accomplished that but at this point multiple things happened and they were living in low income housing in Evart. Upon graduation he was able to get a pretty good job with Meijer. They moved to Big Rapids and purchased their own home, she started the prerequisites for the nursing program at Ferris State University and step-by-step, day-by-day they were making their dreams a reality. She was accepted into the nursing program at Ferris and in the first semester they took in a special needs child, which they thought was a “normal” child and were certainly not expecting to take on a special needs child at that time of their life.

This child had a lot of things he needed that they were not prepared for in their financial situation. Then the engine in her van died and Meijer eliminated her husband's position from the corporation. At the same time, she discovered she was maxing out her life time Pell Grants and her life time student loans. She got to a point in her last two semesters in the nursing program, so close to her lifelong dream and this blow that would have made it impossible for her to graduate with her nursing degree.

Then came Greg and the Michigan Works! Program. (Prior to this when she first came to Big Rapids, West Central helped her to get her CNA Certification, but lots of things held her back from becoming a nurse.) She had many fears because she was told her whole life she couldn't do it. She didn't want to start the nursing degree because she was afraid she'd fail; afraid she'd fail “in the moment” and her mind would go blank and she wouldn't know what to do and someone's life would be lost at her expense. So at that time she was too afraid to get her nursing degree. She graduated from the CNA program with a 98% and received her certification and passed the State Certification program with 95%.

That gave her the confidence to go forward and she did get her “Assistant” certification as well. About eight years after becoming a CNA she worked at the hospital in Big Rapids and was able to face and overcome her fears. She did CPR on a 2½ year old drowning victim and he did die, but this and every experience since has been a very valuable learning experience. Every time she participated in a code it confirmed she was where she needed to be.

About two months into working in the OB unit, one of her other fears that really held her back was the thought of losing a baby. A mother came in and she gave birth to a deceased child; that was the final thing she had to face to overcome her fears; then she finally moved forward to get her nursing degree.

From the time she was 21 that's when Michigan Works! helped her in just learning the basics of job search.

She graduated from the Medical Assistant program with an overall 3.4 GPA and three months later she got her State Certification with a 95% and at Ferris State she made the Dean's List multiple times but just missed the President's List. She graduated the Nursing Program from Ferris State University with an overall 3.4 GPA. She had teachers in her elementary school tell her that her expectations for herself were set too high and she needed to bring them down a bit because she would not be able to meet her goals. Here she is today! But without Michigan Works! and these programs and all that the Boards are a part of every single day, she would not be here and be a Bachelor's Degree Registered Nurse working in the mental health field.

Larry thanked her on the behalf of the Boards for sharing her story, it makes what we do much more real and brings the willingness to keep at it. He also thanked Greg for a job well done.

She added, “what is really important is, obviously you know you are helping more people than just me. This isn't helping just one, I currently work in the addictions unit and everybody I am able to help through what I do now is through the work that you do.”

Plans/Modifications Summary – Handout *Blue (Action Item)*

1. WIOA Local and Regional Plan (PI 16-02) *Action: Signature Required*

*Separate Plan Summary Provided – Emailed prior*

These plans replace the 5-year plan under WIA. The plans give parameters for delivery of WIOA services that integrates all WIOA services, including Employment Service, WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth, as well as Michigan Rehabilitation Services and federal Adult Education Services. We also include PATH and Food Assistance Employment and Training with the Department of Health & Human Services. This plan must be updated every two years, but we anticipate more frequent modifications the first year.

Local Plan Update: The local plan for the West Central area was submitted in June, and is under review. The Local Plan for West Central was approved at the June meeting.

Regional Plan Update: The Plan for Region 4 was submitted in July. West Michigan Works! and Michigan Works! West Central collaborated on the Regional Plan. The plan is currently under review and is still seeking comments. There is a separate summary to the Regional Plan. *Action: Signatures Required*

2. PY 16 Adult, Dislocated Worker, & Youth Plan Budgets (Plan) (PI 16-11) *Action: Signatures Required*

WDA has released the following funding amounts for the programs: Adult – \$490,903, Dislocated Worker – \$623,772, and Youth – \$619,720. Under WIOA, an unlimited amount

of funds may be moved between Adult and Dislocated Worker programs with approval of the Boards and WDA.

3. WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker (Modification 04) *Action: Signatures Required*

The Modification moves \$70,000 of AY 15 money from Dislocated Worker to Adult. The move is based on the limited amount of first quarter funding. The transfer will balance out the first quarter allocations for Adult and Dislocated Worker. Under WIOA up to 100% of the funding for each of these programs can be moved to the other.

4. PY 16 High Concentration Youth (Plan) (PI 16-XX, *draft*) *Action: Signatures Required*

Limited funding is allocated to areas that have a higher concentration of eligible youth. The amount of \$2,545 allows serving one or two additional participants

5. Employment Service Plan (Plan) (PI 16-09) *Action: Signatures Required*

This is the plan for the delivery of Employment Services in each Center for PY 16 with the funding amount of \$168,037. Employment Services are provided to job seekers and employers from each of the six Workforce Service Centers. Employment Services must be provided by merit based employees.

6. RESEA (Plan) (PI16-08) *Action: Signatures Required*

RESEA, Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment program, provides additional services for persons identified by UIA as likely to exhaust Unemployment Insurance benefits. RESEA is an extension of Employment Services. This Plan for CY 16 includes \$22,745 in funding for services to this population.

7. MOUs *Action: Signatures Required*

Like WIA, WIOA requires MOUs with required partner agencies. Under WIOA, these MOUs will include financial support for the operation of the system and also requires that the

boards sign for the MWA. The WDA has issued three draft policies for WIOA MOUs, but has yet to release the final instructions.

Michigan Works! West Central has two agreements for Adult Education Services. One is with Fremont Public Schools for providing Adult Education and GED prep services in Mecosta County and the other is with Mason County Central Schools to provide Adult Education and GED prep services in Lake County. Since these are financial MOUs, we are requesting board signatures. The Fremont MOU is currently in place but has not been signed by the board as we were expecting the final policy to be released within weeks of implementation. The Mason County Central Schools agreement is to begin in August. Staff recommends having both of the MOUs that include financial support in place to comply with the requirements of WIOA with the understanding that they may need to be replaced or modified once final instructions are issued.

**Sheri Thompson moved to accept the WIOA Local & Regional Plan PI 16-02; the PY 2016 Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth Plan Budgets; the WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker Modification 04; the PY 2016 High Concentration Youth Plan; the Employment Service Plan; the Re-employment Services & Eligibility Assessment Plan and the WIOA Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) as written and presented by Paul Griffith; supported by Chuck Trapp; motion accepted unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 12:59 p.m.**

Talent District Career Council (TDCC) Appointment – Shelly Keene (*Action Item*)

Paul explained that with the resignation of Michelle Rasmussen, West Central would recommend that Shelly Keene be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Talent District Career Council (TDCC). Shelly meets the criteria of having a child in a public school district.

**Gary Castonia moved to appoint Shelly Keene as West Central's representative on the Talent District Career Council (TDCC) replacing Michelle Rasmussen; supported by William Visser; motion accepted unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:00 p.m.**

June Program Reports – Handout

◇ Enrollment/Expenditures Reports

Paul explained these are numbers for the entire Fiscal Year. The enrollments and expenditures are inline and Service Providers are encouraged to have carry-over. That is important at least for the WIOA, Adult and Dislocated, because the MWAs only get 7% for the first quarter and the other 93% for the last three quarters. So carry-over is essential, if we did not, the bottom line is that some Centers would have to be shut down until October 1<sup>st</sup>. So this could create a problem, but Paul is not aware of any Centers having to shut down because all Michigan Works! entities are dealing with it, which is called Grant Management.

In the PATH program we need to spend every cent, whatever is not spent goes back – just another difference between the various programs.

West Central has the highest Cumulative Work Participation Rate of any of the sixteen MWAs – we are at 80% in the aggregate.

The last page is NCRESA and in the middle is the Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker – this program was only done by West Central for a short period of time – basically December through June and as of July 1 that program went back to the State as stated in the USDOL ruling. As a result, West Central gave some money back but were not penalized for that.



## Skilled Trades Training Fund (STTF) – Handout

Michelle explained that it seems like they are still trying to wrap up Fiscal Year 2016. We still have a few employers left who are finishing up their training from the last cycle of the Skilled Trades Training. So in the mist of assisting those companies and completing all their paperwork and required documentation in order for them to get reimbursed, we are also working on promoting and getting information out to the local employers for the upcoming Skilled Trades Training Fund round of funding.

There is a handout that shows a snapshot of some of the metrics that the State keeps track of each year that Skilled Trades has been done. Fiscal Year 2016 is the third year for the Skilled Trades program, so currently going into the fourth year of STTF. Region 4 clearly is leading the state among the 10 regions in terms of awards.

For Fiscal Year 2017 a flier created by Michelle, West Central will be hosting STTF employer presentations to bring employers together and offer information about how to apply, what the criteria is, giving all the parameters of the funding; what's allowable and what is not. Four presentations will be held – a joint one for Lake and Mason which is the first one, then Newaygo County, Oceana County and then a joint one for Mecosta and Osceola Counties. If any employers would like copies of this schedule, please let Michelle or Merri know. About 100 emails have been sent out to employers within our six counties who we think would have an interest in attending and potentially applying.

Paul stated this training is for private-for-profit or non-profit, however, it does exclude schools, universities, and government.

Michelle said she wanted the Boards to know that since STTF's inception in 2014, West Central has helped secure nearly \$900,000 for local employers in the six county region; and involved the training of nearly 1,000 people, whether new hires or incumbent workers.

Paul pointed out that the Governor asked for \$10 million more and he got \$5.3 million so it really represents a 37% increase. So the funding will be going from \$14 plus million to \$19 plus million statewide. That is a huge increase.

Mark asked why the footnote that two companies declined. Michelle explained that besides the fact that they didn't get the full amount requested, they were not able to come up with the required 50/50 match, so they declined the STTF funding. Also the timing could have been an issue with one of them; the offer came at a much later date than when they had applied so there were things going on at the company that was not conducive to them doing the training at that particular time; a combination of timing and funding for these two companies.

### Outreach Activities

#### ◇ Agricultural Hiring Needs

Merri explained that things have been very busy with employers needing workers, especially agricultural needs. Indian Summer in Ludington called and wanted 150 people overnight. Job Fairs have been held including one for Peterson Farms at the Shelby Center and a second one for Arbre Farms at the Baldwin Center.

#### ◇ Employer Resource Networks (ERN) (Mason/Oceana)

Mason County ERN has been off for the summer and starts again August 11. Merri has been very impressed with the Oceana ERN in just the two meetings she has attended and has helped to meet the key Human Resource contacts face to face.

#### ◇ Mason/Oceana County Employer Activity

Agricultural needs have been keeping us very busy. A lot of outreach has been done so more employers have been calling. Merri has posted new jobs on the Pure Michigan Talent

Connect and updated inactive accounts for about 20 employers each for Mason and Oceana counties.

◇ Plant Tours

As part of the Michigan Career Technical Institute Training and Skilled Trades Training Fund, Merri continues to reach out to other facilities for plant tours; it helps to get a better idea of what they do and what the needs are.

◇ New Owner of Gray & Company – Seneca Foods

After a tour of Arbre Farms and Country Dairy, Merri stopped at Gray & Company and learned they have been purchased by Seneca Foods.

◇ “What’s in the Truck” Exhibit, Big Rapids

Paul explained that ArtWorks is sponsoring this exhibit. They are inviting Big Rapids and other area companies to come and show their product. Actually having semis parked downtown; Big Rapids Products, Haworth, Wolverine, etc. There are at least 12 companies now where they can set up an exhibit at ArtWorks. All these trucks go through town but if you ask the average resident what's in the truck they would not know. Paul is particularly concerned about educators, teachers that don't know. Mecosta County Development Corporation, the City of Big Rapids and Michigan Works! West Central are cosponsors for the reception. This is such a great way to feature our local industries.

Each company can decide what they want their exhibit to be. This truly is a very innovative and creative way to get the community connected to the companies and products they make.

## Business Activity – Handouts

### ◇ Talent 2025 Food Processing/Agricultural Focus Group

Michelle explained that July 12<sup>th</sup> West Central hosted a Talent 2025 Food Processing/Ag focus group with employers from our six-county service area. Talent 2025 is a group composed of over 100 CEOs from across our 13-county region working to be a driving force for ensuring we have world class talent for our employers. This is the second year for this focus group, and this time around we had House of Flavors, Country Dairy, Arbre Farms, Leprino and Nestle all at the table discussing their talent needs and issues they are facing in the food processing/agriculture related industry. There was a lot of great discussion and sharing around the table. It benefited not only Talent 2025, but the folks around the table as well! Talent 2025 will be releasing a report in early September on the results from all the focus groups convened in Region 4, so stay tuned. Cindy Romanowski from Arbre Farms was our star last year.

### ◇ Family Farm & Home, Big Rapids

Muskegon-based Family Farm and Home will open a new store in a portion of the “old” Kmart building located on Perry Avenue in Big Rapids. They plan to open in the fall of 2016 and occupy about 38,000 square feet of the former Kmart, which has been empty since June 2014. This is a family run business with 46 locations throughout Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. This is expected to create between 15 to 20 new jobs.

### ◇ Project Rising Tide (PRT)

Through the State of Michigan Community Development Block Grant program \$2 million in funds is being set aside to assist eligible PRT communities (this includes Evert) with the completion of an identified project through direct funding assistance. Specifically, projects must benefit persons of low to moderate income through job creation or an area-wide benefit

to a low/moderate community. For example, the program is seeking those projects that are transformational in nature. 1) Building Rehabilitation 2) Façade Improvements 3) Building Acquisition 4) Public Infrastructure 5) Farmer's Markets and 6) Blight Elimination through Demolition (low priority). City Manager Zack Szakacs was meeting with the City Council this past Monday to discuss ideas and come up with a project that fits within the scope of this funding.

◇ Job Posting Numbers for June & July

In June and July Merri, Michelle and Employment Services staff posted more than 80 positions on the Pure Michigan Talent Connect. In addition to potentially registering them as new employers, they also performed resume searches, shared on various social media platforms, held job fairs and provided other services for these employers. Kudos to Merri, and the ES staff.

◇ Ice Mountain, Stanwood

Ice Mountain has announced a new expansion. This will be a major addition costing \$36 million. They actually have nine production lines now – they will be adding room for two more but only equipping one. This will be at least 100,000 square feet, which will bring their facility to about 850,000 to 900,000 square feet. The Plant Manager also indicated that this will likely be the last expansion of this plant as it will result in the optimum-sized plant. This should create somewhere around 20 to 25 new jobs, so 40 to 50 jobs when all eleven lines are up and running.

Prisoner ReEntry Bid

Paul stated that this has been an interesting ride. At the last meeting the Boards granted approval to bid up to all of Region 4 which is all 13 counties because the Michigan Department of

Corrections had put out a bid that says they would realign and put everything out by the Governor's Prosperity Region which would be expected. West Central did bid with the blessings of Paul's counterpart in Region 4B and staff did a great job, as Paul was actually on vacation. Shelly, Mike, Brigitte, Angie and Glennes did a great job putting the bid together and even had it in a day early. This was done purposely because it had to be posted online, so submitting a day early allowed for any issues that may occur to be addressed – but none occurred.

Last Tuesday was the published date that a decision was supposed to be made, where they would make unofficial award announcements; Tuesday and Wednesday came with no word, a call was made but there was no information and no indication when awards would be made. Monday, Paul got an email asking him to call right away. Because he was on vacation and did not have good cell reception, he retrieved it two hours after it had been sent. The Governor's office has been highly involved in this procurement process as it relates to Prisoner ReEntry. The bottom line is that they are now “pulling back the bid” and offering West Central a one-year extension which will be the current counties that we serve. One of the big reasons the bid was pulled was because they received very few bids. Initially they received only five bids for ten regions – they did get one more bid which was solicited after the bid closing date. Of the six, five of those bids were one per region; only one region had more than one bidder and they were both Michigan Works! agencies who could not arrive at a consensus on who would bid.

Also there was a new and significant component – Key Performance Indicators – similar to the Performance Standards for WIOA except there were penalties and bonuses tied to this. That was the risk that many potential bidders did not want to take. So they are tossing this RFP and giving extensions and if there is an RFP next year, it will not contain KPs.

### New Partner – Mason County Central Adult Education, Baldwin Center

Paul reiterated that West Central continues to recruit new partners into our Centers, so starting August 1<sup>st</sup>, this past Monday, in Lake County, Mason County Central Schools who operates Adult Education, high school completion and GED prep in Mason and Lake counties will have a new location at our Baldwin Center.

He is also working now with White Lake Adult Education, a part of Whitehall Public Schools, which is not in Oceana County but they work with several surrounding school districts. The plan is to have them come to our Center in Shelby and do Adult Education, high school completion and GED prep. We first needed to be sure our computer lab could accommodate both this and our other customer needs. It appears that it can.

Fremont Public Schools is in the Big Rapids Center also doing Adult Education, high school completion and GED prep. West Central is strategically trying to make these services available in all of our Centers or at least one or two options elsewhere in the county. Another reason for this push to get these services coordinated, is because in WIOA Adult Education is to be a stronger partner.

### WIOA Final Regulations/Training

The Final Regulations have finally been released. Again, these regulations include Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Adult Education Services and Wagner-Peyser. West Central staff will be going to two days of Michigan Works! Association facilitated training where over 400 people are already registered.

## Labor Market Information Training – Handout

### ◇ Labor Market Information

The first chart provides data going back to June 2009 and every June since, where it shows the ratio of the number of unemployed to the number of advertisements. How many people per advertisement – there is a huge gap between the US and Michigan. So at the height of the recession it never went more than five at the national level, where in Michigan it went up to eleven. So for every ad there were eleven unemployed people. Now the ratio is down to every one ad there are two people. It is well known that Michigan hit the recession well before everyone else did.

Laborforce Participation Rate is also becoming a hot topic. This data goes back to 1990 and Michigan ranks 38, which is not very good.

The next chart is Labor Under Utilization. This takes into account the discouraged worker/job seeker. The U3 is the official estimated unemployment rate; for the discouraged worker Michigan is again ranked 39 out of 50 states.

## Prosperity Region 4 Call for Proposals

Paul explained that Jim Sandy, Kathy Maclean, Crystal Young, Dave Bee, Erin Kuhn and Paul are involved in a 30+ member steering committee for the Governor's Prosperity Region 4. They have had a second call for applications, with 13 nominations received. Tomorrow the Review Committee will meet, with Paul serving on this committee, to score the applications. The applications total over a half million dollars, but there is only about \$200,000 available to award for projects.



### Connect Michigan Update - Handout

Connect Michigan is one of the projects that was initially funded and they have put in another application for round two. It is good news that as of now, four of our six counties are Connect Certified. However, the bar has been raised, where nationally it is Connect Certified 2.0 where any new county from this point forward has to meet the new benchmark. Mason and Mecosta have made it very clear they want to go for 2.0 certification. The rural counties are way ahead of the urban ones on this endeavor.

### Lakeshore Resource Network Update

This project is being initiated by the Pennies from Heaven Foundation in Mason County, where they provided \$1 million to start a new Charter School called Gateway to Success in the old Foster's grocery store in Scottville. The enrollment will be capped at 135 and are at about 80 right now.

They have many other projects including the Lakeshore Resource Network. This is an old lumber yard that was purchased by Pennies from Heaven. All the buildings have been taken down except the front retail portion. They have also worked a deal with the City of Ludington to allow them to build a new Fire Barn on part of the property. A ground breaking has not been set yet, but Paul has a meeting in a couple weeks to talk about details and to hopefully be able to bring back a cost figure.

West Central has been looking for a new location in Ludington for some time. This project involves several community agencies. Hopefully an action item can be presented at the October meeting.

### Michigan Career Technical Institute Training

Paul explained that at the last meeting there was some miscommunication, a flier was handed out about food processing that would be run by the Starting Block; it was a one week (30 hour) program that cost \$1,500. The bottom line is that the food processing training did not occur due to low interest but through this a connection may have been made with a new partner – Michigan Career Technical Institute, which is located in Plainwell and works with people with disabilities. They have their own campus, but are beginning to “take their show on the road.” So instead of having everyone come down there they will have the trainer move to different locations throughout the state. They have three or four different occupational areas. West Central has looked at the curriculum and it is excellent.

### Associates Degree or Greater by County – Handout

This is a percentage by county – all 83 counties – the percentage of residents 25 to 64 with an Associate’s Degree or greater. One county is in the second quadrant; two are in the third quadrant and unfortunately, three of our six counties are in the fourth (or lowest) quadrant.

### Governor Snyder Visits MDOC Vocational Village, Ionia – Detroit News – Handout

MDOC has established a Vocational Village within one of the Ionia prisons. This initiative is getting great reviews with kudos to the new director, Heidi Washington. The budget was doubled to set up another Vocational Village which will jump the enrollment of prisoners from 200 to 400.

### Appointment of Two WDB Members

Larry Emig informed the WDB that two new members have been appointed. Eric Gustad, Public Affairs Area Manager for Consumers Energy was appointed to fill the Mason County Private Sector vacancy and Dena Fisk, Human Resources Manager for Ice Mountain was appointed to fill the Mecosta County Private Sector vacancy.

Paul will meet with them for orientation and they will be invited to the October meeting.

### June Unemployment Chart – Handout

Most of the six counties stayed close to the same as the prior month.

### Michelle Rasmussen Resignation

Paul explained that sadly Michelle Rasmussen will be leaving Michigan Works! and taking a position as Communications Officer at Ferris State University.

### Next Meeting October 5, 2016 – Hart Community Center – Hart City Hall

The next WDB/LEO Joint meeting is Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at the Hart Community Center at the Hart City Hall.

### Round-the-Table

- » Warba, Mark, City of Big Rapids – the Red Fox is open; Big Rapids has done some infrastructure improvements.
- » Pasley, Julia, Nestle Nutrition/Gerber – 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nestle is being celebrated this week. Today across 150 locations Nestle/Gerber staff are volunteering and doing activities in their community.

- » Roberts, Carla, Fremont Area Community Foundation – we are concerned about the increase in poverty and interested in working to figure out how to have an impact on this issue and bring poverty down.
- » Massy, Dan, Osceola County Community Development – the county parks are doing a five-year plan and comments are welcome.
- » Thompson, Sheri, Mecosta/Osceola ISD – schools are getting ready for August 25<sup>th</sup>. Last year improvements were made to the MOISD Ed Center (Special Education) and this summer, enhancements are being made to the Career Center to improve learning opportunities for our Voc Ed students.
- » Howard, Linda, Mecosta County Commissioner – Family Dollar is under construction in the Village of Mecosta; and there is a posting for a new County EMS Director.
- » Vyse-Staszak, Janet, Department of Health & Human Services – Busy with the Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker making sure they get the services they need.
- » Griffin, Nancy, Michigan Rehabilitation Services – collaborating between MRS, Michigan Works! for the WIOA regulations. MRS can work with students up to 24 years of age and the Evert Summer Paid Work Experience Project is wrapping up.
- » Booyinga, Voni, Workforce Investment Agency – State of Michigan – received the Local and Regional plans they are being reviewed and approvals should be out by September 29. USDOL is doing WIOA implementation review; this involves 420 questions that need to be answered. MOUs are still in draft, final should be out in one to three months.
- » Byl, Larry, Oceana County Commissioner – Oceana Rails to Trails was first paved at 8 feet some 20 years ago. Last summer and this spring there was a total rebuild and now it's 10 feet wide. Sue Johnson, County Administrator, retired and Robert Sobie has been hired to fill that position.

- » Kosheba, Dan, Local UAW – the Union will be meeting with Debbie Stabenow looking for a grant for the railroad.
- » Visser, William, Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades #174 – now accepting applications for apprenticeships.
- » Rasmussen, Michelle, Michigan Works! – it has been a pleasure working with all of you. I feel I have made friends in many places and will be missing all of you.

#### Other Business

#### Reserved for the Public

#### Adjournment

**Meeting stands adjourned at 2:22 p.m.**