MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL
WDB/LEO JOINT MEETING
REED CITY WORKFORCE SERVICE CENTER
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2017

MINUTES

LEO Members Present
Castonia, Gary
Emig, Larry
Howard, Linda
Ortwein, Chris
Warba, Mark
Willett, Vern
Walls, Karl

LEO Members Absent
Andersen, Janet
Byl, Larry

WDB Members Present
Booyinga, Voni
Eisler, David
Fisk, Dena
Griffin, Nancy
Marek, Ron
Massy, Dan
Martin, Don
Merriam, David
Roberts, Carla
Schurkamp, Christine
Smith-Olson, Debbie
Thompson, Sheri

WDB Members Absent
Cooper, David
Ferguson, Tim
Frey, Amy
Gustad, Eric
Kosheba, Dan
Pasley, Julia
Romanowski, Cynthia
Spline, Rob
Stark, Liz
Trucks, Mary
Visser, William
Vyse-Staszak, Janet

Michigan Works! West Central Staff
Bennett, Merri
Keene, Shelly
Eppley, Jonathan
Reed, Brigette
Griffith, Paul
Shoemaker, Connie

Others Present
Albanesi, Angie – Hope Network
Albright, Linda – Hope Network
Bozman, Jerri – Hope Network
Daly, Jennifer – NCRESA
Kuchnicki, Donald – Telamon Corporation
Spedowske, Gretchen – NCRESA
Sweigart, Lynda – Hope Network
Wilson, Mark – Evart Dept. of Public Works

Call to Order

WDB Chairperson, Debbie Smith-Olson brought the joint meeting of the Workforce Development Board/Local Elected Officials to order at 12:45 p.m. at Reed City Workforce Service Center. A quorum is present of the LEO but not the WDB.
Welcome New WDB Member

◊ Don Martin, Michigan Department of Corrections

Debbie Smith-Olson introduced Don Martin, he is the Regional Manager for Region 4b of the Governor's Prosperity Region. Don is replacing Don Nolan on the Board.

Paul explained that the WDB has another member who is replacing Heidi Hampton, HR Director at Yoplait/General Mills. Heidi went on maternity leave and has had a job change. So Amy Frey, Plant Manager of Yoplait/General Mills, has been appointed to take her place but corporate travel was already scheduled for today.

Introduction of Guests

Guests were introduced and welcomed.

Showcase: Mark Wilson, Department of Public Works Director, Evart & Linda Albright, Career Development Specialist, Hope Network

Linda introduced Mark Wilson, the Director of the Department of Public Works in Evart. She explained that last year Mark agreed to be a work site for the youth Linda had on the youth program. He placed six kids there on a Work Experience, it went very well. So he agreed to place kids there again this year.

Mark thanked the Boards for the opportunity to talk to them about working with the youth. It has been a great experience for the City of Evart; they were a bit apprehensive going into the program, not knowing what to expect. The City of Evart was in a bad situation last year. They had lost a couple full time employees and were trying to back fill those positions; with summer coming, which for the Department of Public Works is a very busy time, preparing for the 4th of July and all the
activities that go on within the City, as well as all the grounds maintenance that need to be done. Working with the youth turned into something that was very positive for the City. In the beginning they were not sure how to approach it but it turned into young people who really took ownership of the position that they were put in. These were positions that were visible to the residents of the City and the residents started noticing what was going on; seeing these young people that would typically maybe see in trouble throughout the community and they were actually doing positive things; cleaning things up and being a positive workforce in the City. It really turned into something very positive for the city as well as these young people who participated in the program.

One of the really neat aspects of it, one that he did not really expect, was developing a employer/employee relationship with them. They could tell that these were young people that never had the opportunity; no one had ever given them the opportunity to have a job to develop work skills and to see these people develop along the way throughout the program was really impressive. These were kids that come from some pretty rough backgrounds – some worse than others but to see them being given the opportunity, being handed some responsibility and each one stepping up to the plate and see some real success stories and after the program ended they moved on to jobs – full time jobs and probably in a direction that they were not going to go without this program. From this standpoint, and from the City's standpoint as well, the council members were hearing comments from residents; positive comments from an entire community standpoint. It turned into a very positive experience for all involved including the community in general. Mark is looking forward to seeing this continue.

His staff was very receptive to accepting these youths; the City of Evart is Union, and this was one of the concerns taking this whole thing on. It turned out that this was not an issue at all. His lead employees stepped up to the plate and basically took these youths and ran with them and made them feel that they were part of the team and by the end of the program the young people did feel like they
were part of the team. They were not in some little program that was stuck on the side; they saw themselves as real team members. They were in work experiences where they remained in that position throughout the whole time; learning a new skill; a new skill set; and work ethic. It was very, very positive from everyone's standpoint.

The program ran for 400 hours but the youth were kind of staggered starting in the spring of the year, it worked out so they didn't all come in at the same time and leave at the same time.

Currently they have one youth from the program and are hoping for more. One very difficult part of the process is recruiting. He and Linda worked together; he would even find kids on the street and stop and ask do they have a job and if not, he'd give them Linda's number and explain a little of what they had to do. This turned things around for many of them and that's one thing that makes this program so satisfying. This may not be “our duty” as the City but as a community how can you go wrong doing something like this when everyone is benefitting from it.

These were kids that were 18, out of school; whatever was needed for their job they got it. There were some side issues but Mark, being the employer, tried to stay out of those issues but made sure they were directed to Linda and she could help them out.

Paul pointed out that Evart is the Rising Tide Community for Region 4; one community was designated from each region.

The Work Experiences were primarily grounds type maintenance but there were three of them working in the water and sewer department. Those three were doing things that were probably a little more intense and more focused on a specific skill set. As far as the jobs areas, primarily it helped them build work ethic. They learned how to come to work every day; they learned what an employer expected of them and they gained that work experience, accomplishing exactly what that program is supposed to do for them.
Linda said that the staff at the City have been very helpful and willing to work with her and the kids. Many times things had to be faxed and there was never a problem; the supervisors were very helpful; at the picnic at the end of the year the supervisors came showing they were vested in this program, not just Mark but the whole team.

NOTE: Mark Wilson & Linda Albright left at 1:01 p.m.

April Program Reports – Handout

◊ Enrollment/Expenditures Reports

Paul explained that we are nearing the end of the program for WIOA for the Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs.

The PATH program is only part way through the Fiscal Year because it is on an October 1st to September 30th basis.

The last page has NCRESA’s three funding sources that NCRESA receives from West Central in addition to “Trade.” Trade is not on this report because Trade is not the typical formula program.

Offender Success Implementation Update

Paul explained that at the April meeting West Central had just started the Offender Success program; April 1 was the official start date. West Central is providing services to all 13 counties, this was not the intention, West Central planned to do six or eight of the counties and maybe keep Montcalm, Ionia since that had been part of our contract for eight years. However, at the “last minute” in February, the West Michigan Works! Board decided that they were no longer interested in providing that service. Since West Central was the only agency that bid in Region 4, we had the responsibility
to be the Administrative Agency for the entire region. West Central felt very comfortable in taking on these additional counties.

Angie Sprank, Community Coordinator, has actually split her time among most of Region 4b’s counties; the only county she had not been in was Kent. Kent is the largest county with a population of 600,000. Some things have come up, which is not surprising, but staff have been right on top of them. Brigette and her staff, with a lot of energy, was able to get the first monthly report in on time. Within two weeks or less, of when the financial reports were due, West Central had checks in the mail to contractors.

There has also been a lot of unsolicited positive comments which also make us feel we are moving in the right direction.

One of the goals of West Central working with Offender Success is to be sure this remains community oriented. The minimum requirement for Community Advisory Boards is one, but West Central will have six. At the Grand Rapids meeting they had to bring in more chairs and it was decided that the meetings should be every other month instead of quarterly.

This is a five-year contract, going from serving 350 to 1,500 returning citizens annually. It is just under a $12 million contract for five years, allowing for four one-year renewals, so it could be up to nine years in total, with the annual budget being $2.3 million a year.

**Outreach Activities**

◊ TV/Newspaper Coverage

Merri explained that “media coverage” has been rather busy with coverage for GEO. She did interviews with TV 9&10, TV 7&4, and the Ludington Daily News explaining how Michigan Works! would help with the GEO group situation in Baldwin. She was encouraged that Michigan Works! was portrayed very positively in the segments that aired.
Merri also took part in a joint interview with Hope Network and Leora Bain at WOTV in Grand Rapids. Merri worked with Leora before the interview and Merri said Leora did an amazing job.

◊ Connect Michigan

Jonathan said that he and Merri along with other community partners, are working with Tom Stephenson from Connect Michigan to attain Broadband Certification 2.0 for Mason, Mecosta, Newaygo and Osceola counties. Online surveys are being conducted in each of those counties to determine current and future Broadband needs. Once the surveys are completed in the next few months, the data will be compiled and each community will set a plan to improve Broadband service, availability, needs and more. These plans should begin being put into action in September/October. Connect Michigan’s mission is to increase high speed internet access, adoption and use to diversify the economy and ensure Michigan’s competitiveness in the 21st Century.

◊ Oceana EDC Breakfast

Merri attended the Oceana EDC Breakfast on May 19th at the Ladder Community Center in Shelby. The keynote speaker was State Senator Goeff Hansen. About 200 to 300 people attended. The Connect Michigan surveys were shared there and they’ve had a great response so far.

◊ Mecosta Manufacturers Forum

Merri and Jonathan met with representatives from Mecosta and Osceola county manufacturers, local municipal officials, Ferris State University administrators and other community organizers during the annual Manufacturing Forum organized by Big Rapids Mayor Mark Warba. The event has been held annually to promote communication among manufacturers, municipalities, the University and others with the goal of working together to share best practices, identify common
problems and solutions, and more. Merri discussed the Skilled Trades Training Fund and apprenticeships and Jon gave a demonstration on the West Michigan Regional Dashboard.

**Business Activity – Handouts**

◊ **Job Postings/Employer Contacts**

Between, Jon, Merri and Employment Service Specialist, 135 job postings were accomplished for April and May, which is double from the two previous months. West Central continues to see an increase in tourism/hospitality jobs, as well as, agricultural positions for the summer season. Merri reminded the Boards that many manufacturers are using staffing agencies to try to fill entry level positions and while they use Michigan Works! for job fairs, but some still prefer not to post the positions on Pure Michigan Talent Connect. However, Merri has spoken with several companies who are considering changing to direct hire. She is also working on a wage study for entry level jobs in Mason and Oceana counties.

◊ **Job Fairs**

Magna Mirrors and Effex Management Solutions held two job fairs in late April, early May at the Fremont Workforce Service Center. They were looking to hire 39 assembly workers to work at the Magna Mirrors facility in Newaygo. A shared flyer was created for the hiring events at the Fremont and Shelby Workforce Service Centers for Adecco Staffing, looking for about 100 temporary workers to help with cleanup before, during and after the Electric Forest Music Festival in Rothbury at the end of June.

Merri noted that Workbox Staffing held two job fairs at the Ludington Workforce Service Center. They are trying to fill production positions at Haworth.

Beacon Specialized Living Services has been at our Ludington Center many times, as they have opened a Center in Ludington and have hired and trained caregivers.
◊ Culver’s – Big Rapids

Jonathan reported that Culver’s of Big Rapids conducted more than 60 interviews in late April at the Big Rapids Workforce Service Center, hiring about 50 crew members. The restaurant officially opened for business on May 22. The regional and general managers, and franchise owners have all expressed how pleased they are with the assistance from Michigan Works!

◊ GEO Rapid Response – Baldwin

Paul explained that Thursday, June 8th there will be a Rapid Response meeting; usually these meetings take place within a few days from when the announcement is made but West Central intentionally, with permission from the State, postponed the meeting until the 8th. Voni will be there as well as Merri, Jon and Paul. Fortunately, West Central does not have many of these events. Also in attendance will be the person from the GEO Eastern Region HR from North Carolina plus the local HR Manager and some Service Provider staff. Then next Wednesday the 14th there will be worker orientation meetings where there will be one or two meetings at different times. A person from the Unemployment Insurance Agency will be present to answer questions directly.

At this time there are two scenarios; clearly GEO would like the state to buy the facility. We also know that at least a couple months ago, a team of four employees from ICE were on site evaluating the facility; also about a month ago the Continuing Resolution to extend the federal budget to the end of the Fiscal Year contained $1.5 billion for a hundred additional border staff and funds for an additional 5,000 detention beds. This may allow for a federal contract for GEO.

If a federal contract did happen, one thing that is different is that employees would have to have a good credit score. The reason is that the federal government believes that those who do not have a good credit score are more likely to be susceptible to influence by prisoners. This practice has nothing to do with GEO.
Debbie said that she and Paul did spend two days in Lansing for the Michigan Works! Legislative Day and at every office they talked about the prison because everyone was aware of the situation. The community is getting an upgraded sewer system from GEO regardless of what happens, because they feel it needs to be done to make the facility more marketable and has been in use for nearly 20 years now. This should be started yet this summer and that agreement has already been signed.

◊ Michigan Potash Company, LLC – Evart

It's taken six years of researching, testing, planning and development, but Michigan Potash Company is getting closer to getting all the pieces in order. If the company continues its plans to restart potash mining in the area, the initial investment would be around $700 million. No time frame has been given when work would officially begin.

Going Pro Campaign – Video

Skilled trades are careers that often require less schooling and debt than a four-year degree. These jobs are in demand for fields like healthcare, information technology, advanced manufacturing, construction and automotive. Once seen exclusively as a world of manual labor, today’s skilled trades jobs offer a wide array of opportunities for high school and community college students.

Employers in Michigan are now seeking talent to fill these roles more than ever before. Going PRO is a Michigan campaign designed to elevate the perception of professional trades and to showcase opportunities in a variety of rewarding careers.

A sizable professional trades shortage exists in Michigan and is expected to continue through 2024. Professional trades will account for more than 500,000 jobs in the Michigan economy, and approximately 15,000 new job openings are expected annually in the state during that time.
Wages for professional trades occupations is 45% higher than other occupations – $51,000 is the median annual salary for these jobs!

West Michigan Hot Jobs – Handout
The list includes occupations that show a favorable mix of projected long-term job growth, projected annual job openings, and median wages. All the jobs listed require education or training beyond high school.

Sheri Thompson, Northern Lights Health & Human Services Award – Handout
Spectrum Health honored Sheri Thompson with the 2017 Northern Lights Health and Human Services Award. The Northern Lights awards are given each year to recognize the contributions of outstanding individuals such as Sheri Thompson.

New Ludington Service Center Update
Paul informed the Boards that it appears at this point our Center will not move until sometime in August.

This brochure is put out by the Michigan Works! Association and captures the essence of what the Michigan Works! programs are all about. The results show 71,898 Michigan jobs filled; 36,048 Michigan employers served; 1 in 12 Michiganders served; 1.6 million American Job Center visits managed; and 100% state and federal performance targets met or exceeded.

Consent Agenda *(Action Item)*
◊ Minutes of April 5, 2017 WDB/LEO Joint Meeting – Emailed Prior
Larry Emig moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented; supported by Mark Warba; motion accepted unanimously by the LEO and those present of the WDB. 1:50 p.m.

Plans/Modifications Summary – Handout Blue (Action Item)

1. WIOA Allocation Year (AY) 2015 WIOA Dislocated Worker (Draft PI 15-09, Change 3) – No Action Required

For AY 15, the Talent Investment Agency (TIA) has allocated an additional $62,342 to Michigan Works! West Central (MWWC) to support Dislocated Worker programing to be spent no later than December 31, 2017. The additional money will be used to support WIOA programing for Adult or Dislocated Workers since we have the ability to transfer 100% of Dislocated Worker funds to Adult if appropriate.

2. WIOA MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) – Action – Signatures Required

The WIOA requires the local Workforce Development Board, with the agreement of the Local Elected Officials, to develop and execute Memorandums Of Understanding and the One-Stop partners concerning the operation of the One-Stop delivery system in the local service delivery area. All MOU’s must adhere to the provisions outlined by the WIOA and the Final Regulations and be reviewed and renewed at least once every three years.

The list of required partners is robust. In the Michigan Works! West Central area, we are required to have MOU’s with the following agencies:

- WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth: Michigan Works! West Central
- Wagner Peyser: Michigan Works! West Central
- Trade Act: Michigan Works! West Central
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Michigan Works! West Central
• Adult Education: Whitehall District Schools– White Lake, Mason County Central Schools, and Fremont Public Schools
• Senior Community Service Employment (AARP Foundation) (formerly Experience Works)
• Career and Technical Education postsecondary programs under Carl D. Perkins: West Shore Community College, Ferris State University
• USDOL – Veterans Department
• Unemployment Insurance Agency – State of Michigan
• Vocational Rehabilitation (MRS) – State of Michigan

3. Local Workforce Development Board WIOA Membership Recertification (Draft PI 15-04, Change 2) – Action – Signatures Required

WIOA requires that once every 2 years the local board is recertified. Recertification is based on the guidelines set forth in WIOA, the extent to which the local board has ensured that workforce investment activities carried out in the local area have enabled the local area to meet the corresponding performance accountability measures and achieve sustained fiscal integrity.

4. Adult Education Proposals – Action – Signature Required

WIOA promotes coordination between the local workforce development boards and adult education providers. Based on the WIOA, Local Workforce Development boards must review all Adult Education proposals for WIOA, Title II, Adult Education and Family Literacy funds. The role of the WDB is to review proposals to see if they align with the local and regional four year plans.

Michigan Works! West Central received six applications to review and provide feedback on. The three providers were Whitehall District Schools (3), Fremont Public Schools (2), and Mason-Lake Adult Education (1). A committee of WDB/LEO members were selected to work with the Administrative Agency to review and score the proposals.
5. One-Stop Operator – No Action Required

Michigan Works! West Central released the One-Stop Operator procurement in February of 2016 in combination with other workforce development programs. Further clarification has come out from the United States Department of Labor and we are now required to re-release the One-Stop Operator procurement. An RFP was released June 6, 2017. The proposals are due no later than June 30th. The Administrative Agency will plan to pull a committee of WDB/LEO members together to review the proposals in July and will seek Board approval at the August meeting.

Hope Network is the current One-Stop Operator. They will continue in this role through August 11, 2017 as the new Contract will start on August 14, 2017.

6. Fiscal Year 2017 - Trade Adjustment Assistance Allocations (PI 16-18 Change 6) – No Action Required

Michigan Works! West Central recently requested and was awarded an additional $12,350 in Trade Case Management funds. The total case management funds is now $47,350 and the total Trade funding is $152,350.


This policy distributes additional TANF funding for $33,085 bringing the total allocation up to $1,026,810.

8. DTE Energy Foundation Grant/United Way of the Lakeshore – No Action Required

Funding is through United Way of the Lakeshore in Muskegon. The intent is to assist disadvantaged youth with obtaining summer employment working with non-profit agencies. The funding is designated for Oceana, Lake, Newaygo, and Mecosta Counties. Funding is anticipated to be approximately $29,000 for 24 youth to work a minimum of 32 hours for a minimum of 6 weeks.
Mark Warba moved to accept the WIOA Memorandums of Understanding; the Local Workforce Development Board WIOA Membership Recertification; and the Adult Education Proposals as presented by Shelly Keene; supported by Chris Ortwein; motion accepted unanimously by the LEO and those present of the WDB. 2:10 p.m.

PY 2017 Proposed Budget – Emailed Prior/Handout (Action Item)

Brigette explained that our current Fiscal Year ends June 30 and the state has not released the planning allocations for the July 1st grants. This chart contains what is known at this time and what can be projected to carry forward to the next Program Year of the funds that allow carry-in. There is also funding that will not be awarded until October 1st, so we used 90% of the current allocations for these funding sources. Hopefully these calculations will give us a fairly accurate twelve-month snapshot.

On page one for PY16 it shows where West Central initial allocations started and estimate of where the budget will be when June 30th arrives. This shows $1.3 million to carry-in to the new Program Year starting July 1st. A lot of this consists of the fourth quarter of the grants that don't start until October which is why this carry-over number seems so large. All this money is obligated to contracts as of July 1st to be spent in the next Program Year. Plus the Offender Success Program as was discussed took on additional counties as of April 1st so the new budget that was just under $600,000 increased to $1.1 million.

Page two gives the comparatives of only the West Central administrative budget, not the Service Providers. This gives line item expenses actually spent in the last Program Year (June 2016). The next section is what is projected to be spent by line item for this Program Year and the last section is the detail of the proposed budget on page one.
Brigette explained the PY’16 increase of IT expense resulted from the necessity to upgrade from a free open source software to Microsoft Word on the lobby computers and in the computer labs for the benefit of our customers. We also needed to upgrade from Windows 7 to Windows 10 to stay compatible with other software applications. The desktops that the staff were using were 8 years old and failing; to compound the issue, there are many staff who travel between Service Centers, which made it necessary to put a computer in every Center for every staff that traveled. Now they have laptops they can take with them which reduced the need for extra desktops.

Brigette explained that West Central tries to stagger expenses, for instance one year we will upgrade the file servers and the next year staff computers and then the public computers so that we never get “hit” with all the expense at once.

Brigette also explained that to put this budget in perspective there are a lot more “Admin Dollars” available than what's in this budget but Admin Dollars can be turned into “Program Dollars” but Program Dollars cannot be turned into Admin Dollars, so this budget is based on what the Administrative Office projected needs are and does not capture all the Admin Dollars available. Hypothetically, we have a million dollars of Admin but $400,000 is being budgeted because that's what we consider will be the needed of that million dollars. So the rest of the million would go to Program and out to our customers.

**Chris Ortwein moved to accept the PY 2017 Proposed Budget as presented and explained by Brigette Reed; supported by Larry Emig; motion accepted unanimously by the LEO and those present of the WDB. 2:23 p.m.**

**Board Member Resignations**

Amy Andrus is no longer employed at Ventra and Ralph Cherry has been transferred to another GEO facility in Florida.
Next Meeting August 2, 2017 – Ludington City Hall

The next WDB/LEO Joint meeting is Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at the Ludington City Hall.

Round-the-Table

» Warba, Mark, City of Big Rapids – June 10th is a car show event and a parade at 4:30 and the City has adopted a balanced budget.

» Eisler, David, Ferris State University – Summer Pell Grants returned and should make a difference for next summer. The Governor’s Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) reduces tuition for students.

» Griffin, Nancy, Michigan Rehabilitation Services – MRS is working with at risk youth 11th & 12th grades. Some are starting Monday also working with Mark Wilson at the Evart Department of Public Works. MRS now has a new rehab counselor, Traci Chetter in the Big Rapids office.

» Thompson, Sheri, MOISD – Curt Finch is officially moving to Arizona, so the ISD will be searching for a new Superintendent.

» Massy, Dan, Osceola County Community Development – please fill out the surveys that Jon & Merri mentioned.

» Castonia, Gary, City of Ludington – the local water plant is winding down, but unfortunately there was a fatal accident when a young man fell on the concrete floor below.

» Marek, Ron, Reed City Tool – Reed City Tool has a new owner and the good news is that they plan to stay in Reed City and expand.

» Ortwein, Chris, Newaygo County Commissioner – there have been some expansions in Newaygo County – Magna Mirrors is one company and there is a new company coming in. The bad news is there is a lack of affordable housing.
Personally Chris has purchased a track of land on the Muskegon River that has potential for development.

» Howard, Linda, Mecosta County Commissioner – in July Mecosta County will be hosting the West Central Michigan County Alliance of Michigan Association of Counties (MAC). There will be a huge women’s golf tournament at Tullymore.

NOTE: Jennifer Daly left at 2:37

» Roberts, Carla, Fremont Area Community Foundation – on June 8th Carla will serve as a panelist for The Right Place Investor’s breakfast which is featuring the Regional Dashboard we previewed at the last meeting. She will focus on how the Community Foundation will use the dashboard to track intermediate outcomes.

Paul noted that he has made 8 presentations on the Regional Dash Board since the April meeting.

» Smith-Olson, Deborah, Lake Osceola State Bank – Blessing of the Bikes went very well. Baldwin is working on a $6.5 million sewage upgrade. The world’s largest brown trout should be in place by the end of the summer, which is being funded completely by private donations.

Other Business

Reserved for the Public

Adjournment

Meeting stands adjourned at 2:41 p.m.