

MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL
WDB/LEO JOINT MEETING
HART COMMUNITY CENTER – HART CITY HALL
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019

MINUTES

LEO Members Present

Byl, Larry
DeLaat, Ken
Emig, Larry
Hogenson, Tom
Howard, Linda
Walls, Karl

LEO Members Absent

Andersen, Janet
Cooper, Burt
Johnson, Les

WDB Members Present

Cooper, David
Eisler, David
Massy, Dan
Roberts, Carla
Romanowski, Cynthia
Smith-Olson, Debbie
Stark, Liz
Thompson, Sheri
Vasquez, Jill (via phone)
Visser, William
Vyse-Staszak, Janet

WDB Members Absent

Frey, Amy
Griffin, Nancy
Gustad, Eric
Johnson, Peter
Kosheba, Dan
Marek, Ron
Splane, Rob
Timmers, Jon
Trucks, Mary
Whitney, Tina

Michigan Works! West Central Staff

Buss, Mark	Marcellus, Lynsey	Shoemaker, Connie
Davis, Toni	Reed, Brigette	Smith, Aleshia
Gager, Kim	Marr, Chad	Smith, Cassie
Keene, Shelly	Sanders, Julie	

Others Present

Sprank, Angie, Region 4, Offender Success

Call to Order

WDB Chairperson, Deborah Smith-Olson brought the joint meeting of the Workforce Development Board/Local Elected Officials to order at 12:36 p.m. at the Hart Community Center – Hart City Hall, 407 South State Street, Hart 49420. There is a quorum of both the WDB and the LEO.

Introduction of Guests

Guests were welcomed.

Consent Agenda (Action Item)

- ◇ Minutes of August 7, 2019 WDB/LEO Joint Meeting – Emailed Prior
- ◇ August Financial Report – Emailed Prior/Handout (Goldenrod)

Larry Emig moved to accept the Consent Agenda as printed; supported by Sheri Thompson; motion accepted unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 12:38 p.m.

Showcase: Angie Sprank, Community Coordinator – Region 4, Offender Success

Angie reported that with 43 participants in the Truck Driving Program there is a 95% success rate.

Region 4 Offender Success program has been successful overall and MDOC asked Angie as the Community Coordinator and the Administrative agency to mentor/assist other Regions.

MDOC invited Angie and the Region 4 staff for OS to a Voc Village meeting. She and Officer Dan Myers were recently on the podcast for CLEAR.

Wheels to Work is a great program helping not just offenders get to work. This is established in Kent County with a satellite office in Muskegon. Angie and Region 4b staff are working on getting the program into Ionia and Newaygo as well. Goal is to be in all 13 counties.

A contract with My Brother's Keeper would assist them in staying open year round, this would certainly be a win/win.

NOTE: Angie Sprank left at 12: 47 p.m.

Oceana County Information

Lynsey Marcellus, Talent Specialist at the Shelby Michigan Works! Workforce Service Center reported that they started the WIOA informational sessions in September and have started to enroll people into the program. The short term medical certificates are popular, as well as interest in CDL and CNC (Computer Numerical Control) certificates.

For PATH they have been working with DHHS referred clients and have been successful in eliminating barriers. Of course they continue to work in Employment Services assisting job seekers with applying for positions, updating resumes and pointing them in the direction of employers and recruiters.

As far as UIA, not only the changing of seasons but Barber Steele announced it will close so there has been an uptick in unemployment numbers. However on the up side they have had at least three hiring events a week for the past several weeks.

As far as Community events, in August they were present at the Farmers Appreciation and in a couple weeks they plan on attending Walkerville Thrives Homecoming resource fair. They also continue to work with OCAN (Oceana College Access Network) focusing on students in the workplace tours and helping develop outreach tools for senior students and high school graduates.

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

1. WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Funding – *No Action Required*

In the WIOA Law, the Michigan Works! Agencies have been given the authority to transfer up to 100% of funds between Adult and Dislocated Worker. Michigan Works! West Central will be requesting a transfer of \$100,000 from the Dislocated Worker allocation to Adult for AY18. The revised allocations will be: Adult - \$835,976 and Dislocated Worker - \$164,848. The request has

been made due to the larger number of Adult participants that are being served compared to Dislocated Workers.

For AY 19, Michigan Works! West Central will be requesting a transfer of \$250,000 from the Dislocated Worker allocation to Adult. The revised allocations will be: Adult - \$835,330 and Dislocated Worker - \$255,251. The request has been made due to the larger number of Adult participants that are being served compared to Dislocated Workers.

2. Going PRO Apprenticeships (GPA) (Draft PI 19-XX) – *Action – Signatures Required*

The objective of GPA is to ingrain RAs into the fabric and service delivery of local labor markets. This approach is both a comprehensive and systemic RA expansion solution across workforce development, economic development, and education. GPA, which arms Michigan's ASC network with specific funding to offset the employer's cost of the apprenticeship training model to bolster RA cultivation and expansion in Michigan, will rapidly increase the number of apprentices in Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAP) by 800 statewide through June 30, 2022. The overall allocation for Michigan Works! West Central is \$116,196.51.

3. PATH Plan 19-00 (PI 18-32 Change 3) *No Action Required*

This is the Plan for customers who apply for or are receiving public cash assistance. There is a 21-day Applicant Eligibility Period (AEP) to prepare and engage applicants in positive activities that promote job readiness and meeting the work participation requirements. These efforts continue for the duration of the customer's participation with DHHS and Michigan Works! This plan began October 1, 2018 and the overall budget is \$846,277 in federal and \$127,540 in state funding for a total of \$973,817. The increase of TANF funding is \$27,212.

David Eisler moved to accept the Going PRO Apprenticeships (GPA) as presented by Kimberly Gager; motion supported by Carla Roberts; motion accepted unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 12:52 p.m.

Approval WDB Bylaws – Emailed Prior (Action Item)

Shelly explained that the State requested some changes to the WDB Bylaws, only those things requested were changed.

David Eisler moved to approve the revised Workforce Development Board Bylaws as presented; supported by Sheri Thompson; motion accepted unanimously by the WDB.

12:53 p.m.

Personnel Committee Recommendation – Emailed Prior (Action Item)

Larry Emig informed the full Boards that the Michigan Works! Association provides a salary survey every other year, this was an off year. Typically the Personnel Committee does not go with the lowest or the highest but tries to stay in the middle. The recommendation was emailed prior to the meeting for the Board members to look over.

Sheri Thompson moved to accept the Personnel Committee recommendations effective October 1, 2019; supported by Tom Hogenson; motion accepted unanimously by both the WDB and the LEO. 1:03 p.m.

Fraud Policy – Emailed Prior

Debbie Smith-Olson explained this acknowledgement is required of the Boards and staff every year.

NOTE: Jill Vasquez disconnected 1:05 p.m.

PY'18 Final WIOA Performance – Handout

Shelly explained that this is a full year of WIOA PY 2018 and the goal is for our MWA to be in the “green” which is at or above 90%. As is shown on the chart West Central exceeded all performance goals.

August Program Reports – Handouts

Aleshia went over the reports and charts for the period of July 1 through September 30, 2019 for WIOA, Wagner-Peyser and PATH.

She explained that the first page shows WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth participants; it is broken down by characteristics such as age, gender, services offered, employment barriers and field of study. Page 2 focused on Wagner-Peyser and again participants are broken down by age, gender, activities and total participants served this quarter compared to the same quarter of years past. Employer services summary is located on the bottom of page 2 showing the number of jobs filled and employers served for the months of July, August and September. Page 3 goes over the participants of PATH and is broken down by race, age, gender, education, average wage and average hours worked.

PY'18 Annual Audit (*December Joint Meeting*)

Brigette explained that the PY 2018 Annual Audit will be conducted this month during the week of October 14th. She and staff are busy already getting things ready for them. The auditors will be on site for three or four days. At the December meeting WipFli will present the audit via conference call.

Newaygo County Service Center Update

Shelly explained that the work on the Newaygo Service Center is progressing but at this point it looks as though we will not be able to move until the end of November first part of December. Superintendent Lori Tubbergen-Clark has been very understanding and has willingly extended our lease for thirty days.

Mecosta County Business Resource Network Update

Kim Gager introduced Cassie Smith as the new BRN Success Coach for Mecosta County. Meagan Eppley was going to take this position but instead took a position with Ferris State University.

Cassie stated that she is very excited to begin this new role as Mecosta County Success Coach. It's exciting to begin services to Mecosta County that will certainly have a positive impact on the community.

Newaygo County Business Resource Network Report

Julie said she was happy to have joined the BRN group for Michigan Works! Her background includes over 20 years in the mortgage business with both the Huntington and Independent Banks; and most recently ten years as Executive Director with Habitat for Humanity of Newaygo County. The quarterly meeting for Newaygo County BRN members will be on October 29, 2019 and she continues to work to bring in new employers to the group. Most requests have been auto related and budget concerns.

Osceola/Lake County Business Resource Network Report

Mark reported on data from the third quarter of Calendar Year 2019. A majority of activity in working with clients continues to involve auto repairs. Osceola BRN members convened on September 26 for a quarterly BRN meeting to discuss how the program is working in their organizations. Mark recently met with representatives at the GEO North Lake Facility and Baldwin Family Health Care. He anticipates providing services in both of those locations in the near future.

Outreach Activities

Shelly explained that Merri & Jon are absent from the meeting because both are working on the Going PRO applications, this is the last week.

◇ Discover Manufacturing Week

Discover Manufacturing Week is September 30 through October 4. This aims to build excitement in young people about Skilled Trades careers and dispel misconceptions about the industry and fire up students' interest in future jobs. Events can take place that week or later in the month of October. There are a total of 24 companies and 14 school districts participating from our six counties.

◇ National Apprenticeship Week USDOL Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) now in its fifth year, is a nationwide celebration that gives businesses, communities, and educators the opportunity to showcase their apprenticeship programs and apprentices while providing valuable information to career seekers. NAW 2019 will be held November 11 through 17, 2019. Anyone interested in taking part in an event contact Merri or Jonathan.

Business Activity

◇ Going Pro Talent Fund

At this point there is a total of 24 possible applications – 12 from Oceana and Mason counties – 12 companies in Mecosta, Newaygo and Osceola counties. None from Lake County. The online application process closes to employers at 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Applications must be submitted online to Merri or Jon or they will not be allowed to apply.

◇ Job Fairs

A total of 26 job fairs were held by nine different employers at our Workforce Service Centers since the last WDB/LEO meeting. Note that 76 out of the 164 job fair attendees obtained jobs, that's nearly one in every two job-seekers who found employment.

Hiring events were also marketed for Leprino Foods in Remus – Service Master in Stanwood – Tubelite in Reed City – Hardman Construction in Ludington – West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Union #174 in Coopersville and the GEO Group in Baldwin.

◇ Rapid Response

There were two Rapid Response stories – Kaines West Michigan in Ludington which affected 18 people; four temporary workers and 14 permanent employees. Barber Steel Foundry in Rothbury, this affected 50 full-time employees and 25 temporary workers. Severance packages were offered to full-time employees.

◇ Success Stories

- ✓ Fremont Lanes through Going PRO was able to provide training to provide proper preventative maintenance on machines built in the 1960s. This knowledge will keep the machines running for another 30 years.
- ✓ Laurie an RN now has a new job and a new found confidence in working on the computer and is working at a career that she enjoys.
- ✓ Rajka with a Ph.D was hired by GEO for Director of Education
- ✓ Santana completed AEP training and also completed orientation with Newaygo Medical Facility and was able to retain her Certified Nursing Assistant certificate.
- ✓ Ron wanted a career in truck driving. Michigan Works! was able to pay for him to attend Pinnacle Truck Driving and also covered the cost of his DOT physical. He is now driving truck for ATL Incorporated.

◇ Employer Led Collaborative Grant

In late August Michigan Works! was informed that the Employer Led Collaborative Grant request for \$87,450 had been approved. The collaborative will be in healthcare. Merri will begin setting up meetings after the Talent Fund application period has ended. In an Employer Led Collaborative talent issues may be handled more efficiently through multi-company, industry focused training programs.

◇ New Business

- ✓ Lake County – this is not a new business but one reopening – the North Lake Correctional Facility in Baldwin began receiving inmates this week. When they are at full capacity, 1,800 inmates will be housed at the facility. This is a ten-year federal contract with the US Bureau of Prisons. Since the announcement of the prison reopening back in May The GEO Group has brought back about 300 jobs to Lake County.
- ✓ Mecosta County – Hungry Howie’s Pizza is opening a location inside the Family Video building in Big Rapids. They expect to open in December. Jon is working with the manager to see how Michigan Works! can help with any hiring.
- ✓ Osceola County – Michigan Potash & Salt received approval from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to move forward with its planned facility to mine potash in Hersey. The \$700 million project is expected to create 150 permanent full-time positions.

What’s New in our Region?

Toni Davis reported that at the end of August the DTE Foundation/United Way Work Experience came to an end. Youth came from Lake, Mason and Newaygo counties. Six youth were trained with WIOA funds and seven with DTE/United Way funds. The focus was on soft skills, such as showing up on time, uniform clean and neat and workplace safety.

At the Lake County Workforce Service Center 62 veterans have been in seeking assistance working with the Veteran's Rep, Wayne Eversole.

Mason County continues to have a number of people needing assistance with UIA – resume assistance – job search because of permanent layoffs.

Chad Marr reported that in Mecosta County they are in week three of Career Connect at the Meceola Tech Center. Rachele Towns from the Big Rapids Center is working on Career Readiness Skills with adult learners who are also enrolled in a certificate program.

Newaygo County has met with Melissa Summers and are in the process of possibly partnering with Junior Achievement of Newaygo County. Also Sarah Meeuwes from YOUTHRIVE. These are both great connections to have when dealing with the youth.

Unemployment Ranking August 2019 – Handout

All the West Central counties were up from a year ago. They were however, down from the July 2019 ranking.

Resignation WDB Member Deanna Fisk

Deanna Fisk Board member from Ice Mountain has accepted another position with another agency and has resigned from the WDB.

Appointment of New WDB Members

Larry Emig explained that the LEO met prior to the joint meeting and appointed three new members to the WDB.

Lake County Private Sector (1)

- ◇ Donnie Emerson, Facility Administrator, GEO Group, North Lake Correctional Facility

Oceana County Private Sector (2)

- ◇ Larissa Vanderputte, CPA, Controller, Michigan Freeze Pack
- ◇ Lisa Kulesza, OH&S/Administrative Manager, Peterson Farms

Next Meeting December 4, 2019 – Michigan Works! Workforce Service Center, Reed City

The next joint meeting of the WDB/LEO is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at the Reed City Workforce Service Center located at 240 East Church Avenue 49677.

Round-the-Table

- » Vyse-Staszak, Janet, DHHS – The State of Michigan has expanded the degrees that it will accept for protective services and foster care workers. These degrees include interdisciplinary studies and social science, community development, behavioral science, special education and education of the emotionally disabled. The governor is looking at the Medicaid work requirements for single able-bodied individuals that were to be put in to effect in January. There may be changes to the work/community service requirements for this program.
- » Eisler, Dave, Ferris State University – new freshman enrollment this fall, we call them FTIACs (First Time In Any College), matches our high in 2014. Although the overall state increase to higher education was .5% because of support for the Indian Tuition Waiver Ferris received a 2% increase. Ferris also rededicated the Hagerman Pharmacy Building on the Big Rapids campus after a significant renovation project.
- » Howard, Linda, Mecosta County Commissioner – the ground breaking event for the Dragon Trail is October 4th at Sandy Beach Park. Trail construction will be next summer and they expect to open to the public in the spring of 2021.
- » Cooper, Dave, Whitehall Industries – Whitehall Industries is expanding.

- » Byl, Larry, Oceana County Commissioner – he thanked everyone for visiting Oceana County and gave everyone a warm welcome to Hart. The County agriculture is in full swing with the harvest of apples, pumpkins and other fall crops. You can smell various food processors in different communities. Larry also wanted to thank Merri Bennett for her quick response to the closure of Barber Steel in Rothbury which will lay off 70 full and part time workers.
- » Walls, Karl, Lake County Commissioner – GEO has already had a huge impact on Lake County. Calls are received everyday about housing and the impact is spreading to the surrounding areas. It has been very positive.
- » Massy, Dan, Osceola County Community Development – some of the barriers for the Potash Plant have been removed but still a long way to go.
- » Thompson, Sheri, MOISD – the Governor’s line-item veto not only affected the Going PRO Program, but also funds that will impact skilled trades at the MOISD Career Center. Funding for new CTE equipment (welders, CNC machines, computer, etc.) was cut, along with CTE dollars designated for IT certification and other CTE programs. Another CTE Early/Middle College collaboration with Ferris State University and Mid-Michigan Community College. MOISD is working with Ferris to form an exploratory committee to establish an LCAN in the area. There is a void in that program’s availability in parts of Osceola and Mecosta counties. Also Meceola Tech Phlebotomy class is now underway, in collaboration with Mid-Michigan Community College and a Truck Driving class will begin soon. This class has been a challenge to implement, but there is high demand from students and employers.
- » Smith-Olson, Debbie, Lake Osceola State Bank – hopefully the protest that was held yesterday at the prison which brought the State Police to Lake County is done. Even with that she believes GEO is off to a great start. They have hired 270 people and are looking for a few more. They have hired teachers to teach GED. The payroll in itself has benefited the county. The protesters

had some local support and were protesting that the prison had opened and closed so many times. This prison has three indoor gymnasiums in addition to the outdoor facilities. Debbie fully expects the contract for the prison to continue.

Also the Lake County Economic Development Alliance has made application for the Pure Michigan Trail Town for the entire county in collaboration with Oceana and Newaygo counties for a regional trail. This is moving forward but the Pure Michigan was one of the line items the Governor vetoed. So we will see how that plays out.

Other Business

Reserved for the Public

Adjournment

Meeting stands adjourned at 2:03 p.m.