

**MINUTES OF THE  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

April 24, 2014

The Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board met Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Clinton Township Michigan Works Service Center with the following members present (☑ denotes private sector):

**AT ROLL CALL:**

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ✓ Patricia Anger    | ✓ Dominic LaRosa  |
| Deborah Bouts       | ✓ Mary Matuja     |
| John Bozymowski     | ✓ William Morelli |
| ✓ Patti Gendernalik | Rick Niedieck     |
| ✓ Carl Gervason     | Valerie Nunn      |
| ✓ Virginia Gronley  | William Peterson  |
| ✓ Peter Keating     | Gary Polulak      |
| ✓ Mike Kramer       | ✓ Charles Shaw    |
| Ken Lampar          | Erin Smith        |

**ARRIVAL AFTER QUORUM CALLED:**

- ✓ Ann Forster

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ken Austin        | ✓ Carter Hitesman |
| ✓ Lori Bianco     | ✓ Maria Kokas     |
| ✓ Dan Casey       | Mike Moran        |
| ✓ Hannah Costello | ✓ Mike Weigand    |

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

John Bierbusse

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**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Keating called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with 18 members present.

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

**WILLIAM PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2014 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY PAT ANGER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Chairperson's Report**

Mr. Keating reminded the board that the June 2014 meeting of the Workforce Development Board has been moved up a week from the regular date of June 26 to June 19, 2014. The meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Voyageur Restaurant in St Clair; dinner to follow.

**5. Committee Reports**

**A. Youth Advisory Committee**

**1. Meeting of April 16, 2014**

**a. Recommendation to Approve PY 2014 Youth Contract Negotiations**

**i. Younger Youth**

The younger youth program provides low income individuals with work readiness skills through employment and academic support with the goal of completing high school with a plan for the future. Negotiations to extend the current PY 2013 contracts between the WDB and Contractors for the Younger Youth Summer and Continuum programs were reviewed at the Youth Advisory Committee meeting. The PY 2013 budget was \$1,614,099 which serviced 793 youth/352 summer youth participants. It was recommended that contracts be extended for PY 2014 with a revised budget of \$1,532,540 and participant levels of 748 youth/291 summer youth. This budget does not include Mt. Clemens Community Schools whose contract is pending until further review due to lower than expected performance.

Those contracts being extended include:  
Blue Water Center for Independent Living  
Chippewa Valley School District  
Employment and Training Designs, Inc.  
Fitzgerald Public Schools  
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools

Lincoln High School  
Macomb Intermediate School District  
St. Clair Regional Education Services Agency  
Virtual Learning Academy  
Warren Woods Public Schools

**ii. Older Youth**

Extension of the older youth contracts with Blue Water Center for Independent Living and Employment and Training Designs have also been recommended with a small increase in the budget for the same number of participants. The PY 2013 budget was \$374,175 servicing 135 youth. The PY 2014 budget is \$380,654 also servicing 135 participants.

**MARY MATUJA MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY 2014 YOUTH CONTRACT EXTENSIONS; SUPPORT BY PATTI GENDERNALIK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Informational Items**

**i. Foster Care Program Update**

The Workforce Development Board will receive funds to serve foster care youth again this summer. This will be the fifth year of summer programming to provide work-readiness training as well as placing foster care youth into summer work experience. New for 2014, foster care youth will attend a work-readiness "boot camp" learning how to interview and how to conduct themselves on the job (soft skills) prior to being placed in a work experience. An allocation of \$72,000 will be received to provide these services to 45 foster care youth ages 14-21 in Macomb and St. Clair Counties.

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**ii. Current Program Activity**

On February 20, 2014 Employment and Training Designs, a WIA Youth program contractor, honored a group of eleven business partners at an Employer Recognition Luncheon for their commitment to provide work experience, employment opportunities and mentoring to WIA young adults enrolled in Macomb and St. Clair Counties. At the luncheon, Keenan Tenant received special acknowledgement for his graduation from Oakland University in the LPN program. Keenan is employed as a CNA on a contingent basis with St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital and has been offered a position as an LPN when he completes the State Certification Exam.

On Tuesday, March 25, 2014, over 100 students from eight local school districts participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual WIA Interview Day. This was a competitive event pairing students with interviewers from 60+ partner organizations with the goal of helping the students gain confidence and experience with the interviewing process. Students worked diligently with their WIA youth advocates throughout the school year to prepare for the various levels of competition and the three top scoring youth were awarded a scholarship toward post-secondary training by Macomb Schools and Government Credit Union. A post competition luncheon and award ceremony completed the event.

**B. Education and Adult Programs Committee**

**1. Meeting of April 17, 2014**

**a. Recommendation to Approve 2014 Prisoner Reentry contract extension for the period October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015**

**i. Macomb County**

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) would like to extend the current Macomb County Prisoner Reentry contract an additional six months for a period of October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015, the first six months of FY 2015. The six month budget would be \$468,912.28 which is half of the amount budgeted for FY 2014.

**BILL PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2014 MACOMB COUNTY PRISONER REENTRY CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR OCTOBER 1, 2014 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2015 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY CARL GERVASON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ii. Thumb Area**

MDOC would also like to extend the current Thumb Area Prisoner Reentry contract an additional six months for the period of October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015. The six month budget would be \$178,533.79. This is half of the amount budgeted for FY 2014.

The MDOC is developing a Request for Proposal so that new contracts can be in place for the second half of FY 2015.

**MARY MATUJA MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2014 THUMB AREA PRISONER REENTRY CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR OCTOBER 1, 2014 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2015 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY PAT ANGER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Informational Items**

**i. Plant Closure Report**

Mr. Bozymowski reported on two recent plant closures. On April 9, 2014 Cityside Management, located in Sterling Heights, notified thirteen employees of their job loss due to downsizing. Michigan Works! and the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) met with nine of the thirteen employees providing them with information on reemployment services and UIA benefits. Four of the thirteen laid off workers had already found new employment.

Michigan Works! has also been notified by Bay Industries of Green Bay, Wisconsin of the closure of Bay Universal Weld & Tube based in Clinton Twp. due to consolidation and a move to Green Bay. Fourteen

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workers including welders, warehouse administrative personnel and a driver were presented with information from a Michigan Works! case manager on available reemployment services.

An update was given on the Syncreon Plant closure resulting in a loss of ninety jobs by June 2014 due to Chrysler's decision to move these jobs in-house. The Joint Adjustment Committee (JAC) requested by Syncreon to assist workers in transitioning to new employment held a Worker Opportunity Fair at the plant on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 40 workers attended the Work Opportunity Fair where they were provided with information on available community resources and were able to meet and be interviewed on site by seven local employers with job openings.

**ii. Success Stories**

Mr. Bozymowski recounted three success stories that were printed in the February issue of the "Telling Our Story" newsletter. These stories were submitted by Michigan Works case managers and highlight customers who have been impacted by resources available to them through Michigan Works!

**iii. Update on the PATH Program**

The Macomb/St. Clair FY 2014 (October, 2013-February, 2014) Work Participation Rate (WPR) stands at 68.7% as compared to the state's overall 63.1%. It was noted that last year for this same period, the Macomb/St. Clair WPR was at 50%. The increase in WPR may be due, in part, to the 21-Day Application Eligibly Program (AEP) which began in January 2012. For the October through March time period AEP customers have a 48% completion rate. Nearly one-half of the AEP customers do not successfully complete the 21 day period, their cases are not opened and consequently they do not count against our work participation rate.

**iv. Update on Advanced Energy Storage Systems Initiative (AESSI)**

Macomb/St. Clair has contracted with Macomb Community College and Wayne State University to provide training to dislocated workers and incumbent workers in the area of advanced energy storage. Currently Wayne State is providing training to 143 Incumbent Workers and Macomb Community College has enrolled 123 Dislocated Workers and 214 Incumbent Workers. There will be no outcomes until the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

**v. Service Center Traffic Levels**

The number of people registering for services at our five Michigan Works Service Centers has steadily decreased from 2009 to present. There has been a 25% drop in the first three months of this year from the first three months of last year. Clinton Township and Roseville remain the two busiest of our five Michigan Works Service Centers.

**vi. Business Services**

Talent Specialists and Business Account Managers (BAMS) are focused on helping employers fill their hiring needs by connecting them with our customers through assistance in posting jobs on the Pure Michigan Talent Connect, setting up Job Fairs at the service centers or screening applicants for posted positions. Our Business Services staff has also written 75 on-the-job training (OJT) contracts during the first three months of this year.

Among the special initiatives that the Business Services staff has undertaken are "Career Advantage Sessions", giving personal assistance to *job ready* customers; "Kick Start Your Career" which focuses on customers who have completed health care training and are transitioning into employment; and "Boot Camp" which focuses on giving Veterans intensive assistance with their job search.

**C. Administrative Committee**

**1. Meeting of April 17, 2014**

**a. Recommendation to Approve PY 2013 WIA Joint Adjustment Committee (JAC) Budget**

Macomb/St. Clair received a grant for \$7,513 to provide resources to establish a Joint Adjustment Committee (JAC) to determine the re-employment services necessary to transition displaced workers from the closure of Syncreon in Sterling Heights. This closure will result in the permanent layoff of ninety workers. The total budget

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of \$6,830 will be used for customer outreach, office supplies, meeting expenses and to reimburse the services of a neutral chairperson selected by the JAC.

**MARY MATUJA MOVED TO APPROVE THE PY 2013 WIA JOINT ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEE (JAC) BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY CHARLES SHAW. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Recommendation to Modify PY 2013 WIA Dislocated Worker Program budget**

Macomb/St. Clair received an additional \$175,416 in dislocated worker funds when the Workforce Development Agency (WDA) released \$1,591,598 in additional allocation to the 25 Michigan Works Agencies. The revised new budget is \$3,526,819 with a recommended decrease of \$3,000 in participant transportation and a \$2,000 increase in participant outreach with the remaining \$176,416 to be used for additional classroom training for participants.

**CARL GERVASON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MODIFIED 2013 WIA DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY BILL MORELLI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**c. Recommendation to Modify PY 2013 National Emergency Grant: OJT Budget**

The modification to the PY 2013 On-the-Job Training National Emergency Grant (OJT-NEG) budget which Macomb/St. Clair administers for SE Michigan was allotted an additional \$30,000. The program ended March 31, 2014 but the period for expenditures has been extended until May 31, 2014. \$18,882 of the budget will be passed on to the other three Michigan Works agencies while \$208,051 will remain with Macomb/St. Clair who is enrolling the majority of NEG customers into the On-the-Job Training program. The 2013 budget totals \$226,933.

**RICK NIEDIECK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MODIFIED PY 2013 NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT; OJT BUDGET AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY CHARLES SHAW. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**d. Informational**

**i. FY 2014 TAA Expenditure Report**

The Trade Report reflects the amount of expenditures during October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014 compared to that same time period of FY 2013. The report shows that expenditures for FY 2014 are at \$847,289 compared to \$1,673,800 in FY 2013, a 50% decline. We have seen a 50% decline in expenditures yearly since 2010 due to an improving economy and fewer people requiring these services.

**ii. WIA PY 2013 First Quarter Performance**

Performance Levels for the First Quarter of Program Year 2013 were reviewed. The adult performance levels reflect three standards met with incentive and one standard failed. The dislocated worker program showed two standards met with incentive, one standard exceeded and one standard failed. The older youth program exceeded the standards in all four areas and the younger youth performance levels also exceeded the standards in the three areas measured. The customer participant score was exceeded and the customer employer score was met with incentive.

**iii. WIA Allocation Comparison**

A handout for comparison of allocations across all Michigan Works Agencies between Program Year 2013 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) and proposed allocations for Program Year 2014 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015) was distributed. Macomb/St. Clair MWA shows a decline in the WIA Adult and Youth allocations and an increase in the Dislocated Worker allocation. This trend is duplicated statewide.

**6. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Bierbusse gave information on new grant opportunities through the H1-B Ready to Work Partnership. Approximately \$150 million will be awarded nationwide to fund 20-30 grants to provide long term unemployed workers with a range of services that will lead to rapid employment in middle and high skill occupations with employers who use H1-B workers. Veterans and their spouses will be given priority. Seven MWAs will partner with nine Community Colleges and the Workforce Intelligence Network (WIN) to provide training

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strategies which include classroom occupational training that is accelerated for adult workers; distance learning and technology-based learning and customized training. Training should incorporate work-based training models such as on-the-job training, paid work experience and paid internships.

Mr. Bierbusse passed out information on the May 7<sup>th</sup>, Breakfast of Nations featuring speaker Bing Goei, Director of the Michigan Office for New Americans. The agenda includes Networking and Breakfast, Program/Q&A and Discussion Sessions and will be held at Macomb Community College. Cost of \$25 will be covered by the Workforce Development Board for any member interested in attending. Board members should contact the Administration office to make their reservation.

**7. Other Business**

Bill Peterson reported that the United Auto Workers, in partnership with employers such as Ford, General Motors, Chrysler and many others, plans to add nearly 2,000 skilled trades apprentices with starting annual wages of between \$40,000 and \$60,000. The apprentices, who will be added in the next year, represent the largest expansion in the apprenticeship program in more than a decade. Governor Snyder also spoke of the need for more focus on skilled trades workers at the Michigan Economic Summit in April.

Ken Lampar informed the board that he had resigned his position with the Macomb Literacy Partners.

**8. Hearing of the Public**

There was no hearing of the public.

**9. Scheduling of Next Meeting**

The next general meeting is scheduled at the Clinton Township Michigan Works Office at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, May 22, 2014. Members will be notified.

**10. Adjournment**

**DOMINIC LAROSA MOVED TO ADJOURN; SUPPORT BY PAT ANGER. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Wurlinger  
Recording Secretary