Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board (WDB) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, January 09, 2014

Meeting Location: Washtenaw Community College (WCC) Morris Lawrence Building Rm. 150, 4800 E.

Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor, MI

Members Present: Les Alexander, Sean Duvall, Marie Harrell (Steve Girardin's alternate), Steve Gulick,

Diane Keller, Mary Kerr, Chris Knapp, Michelle Mueller, Charlie Penner, Keith Peters,

Fred Pittman, Wesley Prater, Rolland Sizemore Jr., Conan Smith

Members Absent: Renee Adjorian, Howard Edelson, Paul Ganz, Scott Menzel and Jonathan Newpool.

<u>Staff Present:</u> Mary Jo Callan, Shamar Herron, Rana Al-Igoe, Elke Tucker, Tyne Lucas, Johnny Epps

1. Call to Order

Mary Kerr called meeting to order at 8:14 am.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Kerr welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked WCC for use of the facility.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Consent Agenda Items

A. Approval of the Agenda

Prater moved to approve the agenda, Mueller supported. Motion passed.

B. Approval of the 11/07/13 meeting minutes

Harrell moved to approve the meeting minutes, Sizemore supported. Motion passed.

5. Other Reports/Presentations

- A. Shamar Herron
 - Herron reviewed local dashboard with the board. The dashboard compares 2012 numbers to 2013 numbers. Herron discussed that Resource Room and Mediated Services are up from 2012. Herron explained that the number of participants are down in some programs, and specifically discussed the PATH program. The number of PATH participants are down because of the Application Eligibility Period (AEP) that was newly rolled out in 2013, which many individuals do not make it through and never become enrolled in the PATH program. New employment across programs and total exit wages were also down in 2013.
 - Herron gave update on Business Services activity. In 2013 Business Services worked with 250 businesses. They had one (1) Skilled Trade Training Fund (STTF) grant application approved by the State of Michigan and (1) one rejected. The company that was rejected declined to resubmit. They had 1100 business contacts in 2013. Business Services also worked on the UMG attraction project. The efforts of the Business Services team allowed UMG to expand their business to Ann Arbor, and they are expected to hire 400 individuals by

- the end of 20154. To date, they have scheduled 176 interviews, 140 interviews have actually been conducted, 6 WIA participants were hired and a total of 51 individuals were hired. Herron stated that we are doing a better job connecting to local businesses. Sizemore asked how we are doing a better job connecting with businesses. Herron stated that we are getting out in front of them & telling them about what we can offer, which includes recruiting services, vetting of talent, and potential funding.
- Herron discussed the Business Portal, which is being beta tested on January 22nd, and will come online soon. Kerr asked Keller to briefly speak about the Business Portal. Keller commented that SPARK is working on the portal. It will be launched in March and will give businesses information on resources based on what their needs are. Callan commented that we are trying to create a resource that we can connect all size businesses to. Also, there are many resources for business within the county and the business portal will help connect businesses to the resources that are right for them. Penner added that small businesses want info when they want it, and the portal info is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Keller said that 25 businesses will participate in the beta testing.
- Herron gave the EAG update on behalf of Scott Menzel who was absent. Herron stated that the EAG has taken several initiatives:
 - i. Defined scope & directed focus to STEM
 - ii. Created list of goals and ranked by priority
 - Working w/WCC on DOL grant focused on H1-B Visa students and information technology. Mueller added that the grant is for \$3M and is due on January 27th

B. Mary Jo Callan

• Callan discussed the two (2) year federal budget deal and how it affects our Workforce Development budget. Callan discussed that the deal cancels some sequestration impacts, but has not gotten rid of sequestration. The deal postpones the cuts for 2 years, so instead of a 7.5% cut will we likely only see a 3.25 – 3.5% cut for 1st Quarter 2014. Also, instead of a 7.5% cut for 2nd Quarter we will likely only see a 5% cut. This will amount to a 150K cut instead of \$350K – 400. Prater asked about county 4 year budget and how this factors in. Callan said that we have received a small cut to general fund dollars, and that there are concerns about maintaining current staffing levels after 2014. Smith added that the budget is based on federal and state funding which varies, and while the budget is for four (4) years, that will be adjusted as real numbers come in. Callan agreed to get information to all board members on county budget.

6. Report of the Chair

- A. WDB Chair (Mary Kerr)
 - Kerr announced that the WDB has several potential new members identified. Kerr also
 announced that the March meeting will include more detail and that the June meeting will
 be a retreat there will be a retreat in June. Kerr encouraged board members to begin
 thinking about topics of discussion

7. Business

- A. Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) (Conan Smith)
 - Smith stated that Governor Snyder announced last the Regional Prosperity Initiative last year. This initiative will organize the State into prosperity regions, where collaboration and partnerships will occur. Washtenaw County is in Region 9. Smith says that Washtenaw took the lead to meet with other counties within the region and explore partnerships. The most contention was around transportation.
 - SEMCOG was originally slated to submit the RPI grant application to the State. However, they decided to not to participate and did not submit an application at all.

- An application was submitted on behalf of Region 9 by Region 2 Planning of Jackson, and an award of \$250K was received.
- Jackson will hire a RPI Coordinator for 4 different areas Workforce Development, Economic Development, Transportation and Adult/Higher Education.
- The region will be marketed as the greater Ann Arbor area and all counties have agreed to this.

8. Other Reports/Presentations

- A. Workforce Staff Updates (Al-Igoe, Epps, Lucas and Tucker)
 - Al-Igoe discussed the Approval of the OCED Annual Entitlement Grant Funding which allows
 all formula grant funding to be approved at one time by the Board of Commissioners and
 saves staff time by consolidating all grants that have to go before the Board into one
 Resolution.
 - Epps discussed PATH, Youth, & Food Assistance Programs.
 - o For the year of 2013 the WPR has been over 50%
 - For the Month of November the WPR for our MWA was the highest it has ever been at 71%
 - o 32% of all PATH customers are employed full time, making over \$8.80 per hour.
 - Next month the PATH program will be starting a Job Club for those customers who
 have remained unemployed after 6 weeks of being in the PATH Program. This will
 address any in depth barriers to employment they face.
 - Will start GED Support Session that will act as a catalyst to motivate participants in completing their GEDs, and encourage them to take the next steps in further training.
 - o In 2013, the Youth Program enrolled over 200 new youth.
 - o The Youth Program was able to put 107 youth into a LWE and utilized 35 worksites.
 - Have monthly Job Readiness workshops and Bi-Weekly trainings on Soft Skills.
 - Later this month the Youth Program will be having a Graduation Celebration to acknowledge some of the youth that completed their high school diploma, GED, occupational certificates, or college degrees in 2013.
 - The Youth Program will continue to reach out to schools and other community agencies throughout the County to make sure information about the Youth Program is readily available.
 - Lucas discussed Employment Services, WIA Adult & Dislocated Worker, & Trade Programs.
 - New Intake Form
 - a. Collection of email address for added connection to customers.
 - b. Pre-registration info included on intake form to help identify potential program participants.
 - Constant review of resource room flow to ensure customer friendly experience.
 - Quarterly success stories submitted, highlighted three individuals who entered employment from WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.
 - WIA programs are at 31% of local goal to exit 135 participants to employment or other positive outcomes.
 - WIA programs are meeting goal to maintain enrollment of 500 participants across
 WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs with a current total of 509 enrolled.
 - WIA partnered with WCC on IBEW Welding Program and Ignite grant.
 - State reorganized and moved former Veteran Representative Tomisha Williams to Trade program focusing on Outreach to individuals who have training benefit available and have not used it.

- Currently Washtenaw County MWA does not have a Vet Rep on site. Veterans are referred to the Wayne Michigan Works if they would like to work with a Vet Rep.
- Elke discussed data gathering from OSMIS
 - Elke stated that she is constantly working to pull data information that is useful and gives a clear picture of what services are being administered and the outcomes of those services

9. Other Business/Items for Future Agenda Consideration

Prater made comments about the Road Commission and sanding of intersections within County. Prater encouraged board members to call the Road Commission to inquire about why roads had not been sanded.

10. Adjourn

Kerr moved to adjourn the meeting. Prater supported. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.

