

Washtenaw County  
Workforce Development Board  
**Education Advisory Group**  
Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2007      **Time:** 3:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) – 1819 S. Wagner Road, Ann Arbor, MI, Seminar I

**Members Present:** Sara Aeschbach, James Bunton, Cathie Dries, Jody Gielinski, Steve Gulick, Rick Leyshock, Diana McKnight-Morton, William Miller, Larry Whitworth

**Guests Present:** David Dugger (WISD), Sarena Shivers (WISD)

**ETCS Staff Present:** Jenny Bivens, Tiffany Lucas, Trenda Rusher

**I. Call to Order**

Dr. William Miller called the meeting to order at 3:13 PM. He thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. William Miller approved the meeting agenda. Bunton supported. Meeting agenda approved.

**III. Approval of the Minutes**

Dr. Miller moved to approve the minutes from the 10/18/2006 meeting. Bunton supported. Minutes from 10/18/2006 meeting approved.

**IV. Report of the Chair – Dr. Miller**

**A. Middle College Planning Grant Update**

1. Dugger and Shivers outlined the eight common expectations of student learning as Literacy, Mathematical, Content Knowledge, Identifying and Accessing Resources, Complex thinking, Communication, Personal and Interpersonal Skills, and Habits of mind.
2. The members asserted that transforming high schools by integrating early college programs through an Early College Alliance would motivate students, and provide mentoring which would lead to higher success rates in the areas outlined by the eight common expectations of learning.
3. The Early College Alliance would combine middle school awareness programs, summer mentoring programs, required academics, and other resources.
4. The Early College Alliance program will be used to close emotional and academic gaps within students between high school and college.
5. Under the Early College Alliance students may earn college credits while completing their high school requirements over a period that may be, but is not necessarily greater than the general four years students spend in high school.
6. The implementation of this program will benefit both private and public sectors of Washtenaw County. It will feed employers needs for capable staff in the health care industry, provide a trained workforce overall, support job creation in the private sector, and give employers a better connection to the K-12 education system.
7. Partnering between Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, and the Early College Alliance to make coursework consistent will ensure that students have the skills needed to be employable and successful in the post secondary world.

8. The Middle College Planning Grant will be launched in the fall of 2007 and will begin with the RCTC allied health students.
9. Work with the state and area schools will continue, with the expectation that the Early College Program will be expanded in Washtenaw County.

**B. Youth Transitioning From Foster Care Update - Dr. Miller**

1. Funding for the Youth Transitioning Program (YTP) was received from the state.
2. The Youth Transitioning Program (YTP) is currently working successfully to help students in foster care complete high school and transition into independent housing after high school.
3. Currently the program serves between thirty and forty youth per year.
4. Washtenaw County has agreed to provide a list of youth to YTP so that children in foster care can be contacted before they approach high school age.
5. The population of Washtenaw County youth in foster care is currently manageable.
6. Policy for YTP is in the process of being created and will be submitted by the spring of 2007.
7. A budget is being considered to serve this population at the state level.

**V. Report of the Executive Director – Rusher**

**A. Local/ State/ Federal Updates**

Local

1. Talent Portal Meeting 1/12/2007
  - Rusher attended the Talent Portal meeting on 01/12/2007 with a Community Action and Workforce Development partner Ann Arbor SPARK to discuss the Talent Portal -- a new search engine for employers and job seekers in Southeastern Michigan.
  - The Talent Portal will include a new electronic/ virtual interviewing feature that will be made available to employers and employees.
  - It was agreed to have further discussion of offering one model of the Talent Portal to the general public, and another model with additional features to the private sector during the next Mega P meeting.
  - The idea of offering Talent Portal users in the private sector their choice of gold, silver, and platinum editions of the service based on their specific business needs was discussed at the meeting on 1/12/2007.
  - Rick Snyder proposed several additional initiatives to promote workforce and economic development in Washtenaw County at the meeting.
  - Snyder proposed a center for experienced workers to service the baby boomer population in their retirement years.
  - It was also proposed that K-20 action be continued and increased.
  - A lifetime learning plan was considered as an expansion of the K-20 action.
  - Snyder recommended the creation of a center for immigration to help retain the economic benefits of immigrant entrepreneurs, and those pursuing higher education in Michigan.
2. RSA Meeting – 1/16/2007
  - Rusher reported that the committees of the RSA met on 1/16/2007.
  - The committees discussed Talent Primers that will benefit both employers and their future employees.
  - The Talent Primers will teach employers valuable skills in business and prepare them for success.

- Rusher reports that the RSA committees discussed Boot Camp workshops in conjunction with the Talent Primers to prepare new businesses in the area.

#### **VI. SB 1288 Michigan Works!**

- Governor Granholm has passed legislation to support Senate Bill 1288, Michigan Works!.
- The bill will firmly establish the Michigan Works! one-stop service center.

#### **VII. Other Business**

- Rusher gave information regarding the upcoming Joint Annual Meeting and Retreat of the Workforce Development (WDB) and the Community Action Boards (CAB).
- The Annual Meeting and Retreat will take place Monday, January, 22, 2007 and will begin at 12:00 pm and end at 7:30 pm.
- The meeting will focus on the accomplishments of the CAB and WDB during the year of 2006, and serve as a brainstorming session on their goals for 2007.
- A copy of the annual report for both boards will be available at the Annual Meeting and Retreat.
- Rusher passed an invitation to Miller for review

#### **VIII. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the EAG was set at the EAG meeting held in October on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The following date was agreed upon.

- Wednesday, April 18, 2007

#### **IX. Adjourn**

Miller adjourned the meeting at 4:10 PM.