

Washtenaw County
Workforce Development Board
General Session
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 7, 2006 **Time:** 8:00 AM

Meeting Location: Washtenaw County Human Services Building, 555 Towner Street, Ypsilanti

Members Present: Anne Williams, Bill Miller, Cindy Harrison, Clifford Smith, Diana McKnight-Morton, Diane Davidson, Eric Mahler, Gene Graber, Gregory Gurka, Gregg Weaver, Cynthia Maritato, James Bunton, Keith Peters, Mark Ouimet, Mary Kerr, Nicholas Fortson Steve Gulick, Suzanne Bade and Timothy Robinson.

Members Absent: Donn Wolf, James Frenza and Jennifer Leach (all excused).

Staff Present: Trenda Rusher, Jenny Bivens and Rana Al-Igoe

Guests Present: Deryl Beasley – Ypsilanti Gateway Community and Economic Development Corporation, Therese Taylor – Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Service Center (MWSC), Tiffany Hilson and Trinee Moore – American Society of Employers, Gretchen Waters – Washtenaw Contractors Association and Susan Bunton – Washtenaw County Department of Human Services.

1. Call to Order

Peters called the meeting to order at 8:08 AM.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Peters welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that guests present introduce themselves.

3. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Gulick moved to approve the meeting agenda. Graber supported. Meeting agenda approved.

5. Consent Agenda Items

A. 07/06/06 Meeting Minutes

Davidson moved to approve the minutes from the 07/06/06 meeting. Gulick supported. 07/06/06 meeting minutes approved.

B. Resolutions

- i. Acceptance of the ETCS Creating a 21st Century Workforce: Developing and Implementing Collaborative Regional Strategies Initiative funding from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) in the amount of \$50,000 for the period of August 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006; approval of the budget; authorization for the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts

- Rusher noted that these resolutions have gone through Executive Committee and the Board of Commissioners (BOC).

Miller moved to accept the resolution. Gulick supported. Resolution passes.

Discussion

- Davidson asked if this was new money. Rusher replied it was. Rusher added that this was what we worked on a year ago with the Washtenaw Development Council to co-sponsor a position, the Director of Talent Enhancement. Amy Cell was co-hired with SPARK a couple of weeks ago; this person is on board, working, and we are pleased with that partnership.
 - Graber asked what would be done after October 31st when the resolution ends. Staff replied that the contract date has already been extended by the State.
- ii. Ratification of the Chief Elected Official’s signature on the ETCS Fiscal Year 06-07 WIA Incumbent Worker Program Plan to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) in the amount of \$115,798 for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007; approval of the budget; authorization to sign the grant award; authorization for the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts

Gulick moved to accept the resolution. Kerr supported. Resolution passes.

No discussion

C. Action Items

- i. Washtenaw Contractors Association “Just Build It” Career Expo – Gretchen Waters
- Waters talked about planning for the Career Expo. A focus group was organized with teachers to discuss the relevancy of the Expo and they talked about what they do to prepare students for the Expo and what they do afterwards.
 - The program this year will be very similar to what it has been in the past. The WDB has helped fund the Expo for the past six years. WCA is asking for \$17,775, the same amount as last year. A draft budget was included along with the complete proposal in the meeting packets for Board members to review. Also included were some pictures of past events.
 - Waters noted with such an emphasis on college bound students, this Expo offers opportunities for students who are interested in other industries to experience what is out there.
 - Waters invited Board members to attend the Expo scheduled for November 7 at the Eastern Michigan University (EMU) Convocation Center. Waters noted that that the best time to visit if you want to see it busy is before noon. Otherwise, after noon is a good time to stop by if Board members want to spend time talking with the exhibitors.
 - Maritato asked if the Expo is open to the public. Waters replied that it is. Water’s added that they especially encourage 18-24 year-olds who haven’t decided what their career paths were to attend.

Ouimet moved to approve funding for the 2006 “Just Build It” Career Expo in the amount of \$17,775. Weaver supported. Motion passes.

- ii. Support Solutions for Michigan's 21st Century Workforce
 - Rusher noted that she is appointed to the Governor's Council for Labor and Economic Growth (CLEG). This Council rolled out what they are calling "Solutions" across the State. The Governor endorsed the work of the Council.
 - CLEG is asking that WDBs endorse the Solutions document. There will be a signature ceremony at the Michigan Works! Conference later this month. CLEG members are asking for board endorsements prior to the signing ceremony.
 - A copy of Solutions, along with an endorsement letter from the Governor was included in the meeting packets. Rusher noted that everything we do aligns with the common agenda of Solutions.

Graber moved that the WDB endorse Solutions. Maritato supported. Motion passes.

Discussion

- Davidson asked if this was something new. Rusher replied that it was. Rusher added that we have more reason to take a stand and do something different and the Council wanted to leave a mark. CLEG members wanted to do something meaningful. Another reason for creating Solutions was to make sure that WDBs are thinking in terms of 21st century needs. Some Boards need guidance with this. Peters added this will open the doors in terms of job creation in the area and throughout the State.

- iii. Support the Washtenaw Intermediate School District's Health Partnership Grant
 - Miller has been working through the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) with the Superintendents and the RCTC, looking at ways to improve health occupations. This grant will allow them to work on a plan to enhance programming in the health occupations sector in this area.

Gulick moved to support WISD's Health Partnership Grant application. Maritato supported. Motion passes.

Discussion

- Peters noted that he talked with Lisa Freedman at St. Joseph Mercy Health System yesterday and that enthusiasm for this program is very high. EMU has indicated that they are very interested in this as well. This is a great opportunity to help direct young kids.
- It was noted that the WISD needed to have the information solidified by September 15.
- Miller stated that whether the WISD receives the grant or not, they will continue this important discussion.
- Rusher added that ETCS has been approached by CVS who is interested in duplicating a program they have on the East Coast to develop health careers. One problem is the 2 to 3 year waiting list for people wanting to get into the healthcare industry. The problem is with the demand on training and education.

6. Report of the Chair – (Peters)

A. Announcements and Updates

i. Board Appointments Letter

- A list of individuals whose terms are due to expire was included in the meeting packets. Those interested in reappointment to the WDB need to get their materials in to the County. Instructions for reappointment are listed in the meeting packets.
- Peters noted that there exist a number of vacancies on the Board that need to be filled. We are looking for people who are willing to make good decisions and be a part of the Board.
- Staff reminded WDB members from the private sector to submit a referral letter from their local chamber along with their reappointment materials.

ii. Nominating Committee

- Peters appointed the following WDB members to the Nominating Committee:
 - Steve Gulick, Chair
 - Jim Frenza
 - Mary Kerr
 - Gregg Weaver

iii. Detroit Regional Chamber WIRED Letter

- Peters shared a letter with Board members from the Detroit Regional Chamber announcing the designation of Southeast Michigan as a “virtual” WIRED site. WIRED (Workforce, Innovation, and Regional Economic Development) is an initiative of the US Department of Labor.
- The Detroit Regional Chamber is hosting a kick-off with all of its regional partners, including the WDB, on Monday, October 16 from 10 AM to 1 PM. The location of the kick off is yet to be determined.

B. Business Update

- The Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce’s First Tuesday Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19. The speaker is Dick Blouse, President and CEO of the Detroit Regional Chamber. Blouse will talk more about the WIRED initiative at the Chamber Breakfast. Rusher added that this is the WIRED grant that we have been working on for the past two years with SEMWAC.
- In the City of Ypsilanti, the Water Street project is moving forward pretty nicely.
- There are a lot of small projects happening in the Ypsilanti Area. Peters expressed concern with what is going on with the Ford company. They don’t know what direction they will be taking with their facilities and this may have a very significant impact in the County. This is an area of concern for all.
- Peters emphasized the partnership between the Ypsilanti Area and the Ann Arbor Area Chambers. Each allows members of the other group to participate in events at member prices.
- Peters talked about the Chamber’s project *Early Childhood Development is Workforce Development*. The Ypsilanti Area Chamber received a grant from the Joyce Foundation for the project. Peters expressed the importance for people to focus on young people and their growth, even at a young age. The project is great for businesses because it shows a great return on investment. Miller added that it was great to have people other than educators focusing on education. Ouimet added that the United Way Consortium program *Success by Six* is getting ready to launch. Peters is involved in that program.

Peters noted that this opens the doors for all kinds of grants to the Chambers and also attracts the interest of businesses to supplement the program.

- Davidson asked whether we were involved with Google. Rusher replied that we continue to work with SPARK in addressing the needs and recruitment efforts of Google. At this time, Google is self reliant and is not looking for any help from our system. Rusher added that we have offered Google recruitment and training assistance. They have an existing outstanding and efficient electronic screening. Google is a very different customer, and we are committed to making sure that they have a great workforce development experience in the County. Google has all of our information, and they do know we are here to help in whatever way possible.

C. Labor Update (Peters for Gulick)

- Things are going well in the construction industry, especially road construction. The Bosal International company site is currently under construction. Peters noted that he and Trish Riley from the Chamber met with the Bosal HR staff. They took with them a packet of information including offers for free meals at local restaurants and other such welcoming type items.
- Robinson announced the groundbreaking ceremony for Toyota tomorrow. Peters added that Toyota has a fifty year plan for that site.

D. City of Ann Arbor report

None

7. **Report of the BOC Chief Elected Official** – (Prater)

A. Announcements and Updates

- The County is currently dealing with three major issues; Space Planning, the 07 Budget and the legal issues surrounding the Sheriffs Department.
 - i. Space Planning
 - The Commissioners are taking a look at the building inventory of the County and determining what needs to be done first, what needs to be improved first and how to pay for it. Prater noted that this is a major undertaking.
 - ii. 07 Budget
 - The Commissioners need to reconfirm the 07 budget. By law, they are required to approve the 07 budget even though it is part of the two year budget plan that was already approved a year ago.
 - iii. Sheriffs Department
 - The legal issue with three townships, Ypsilanti, Salem and Augusta, and the Sheriffs department continues. The hearing dates are set for October 10-11 where arguments will be made. Prater noted that the hearings are open to the public.
- The County Administrator is leading the search for a new Deputy Administrator who announced his retirement.
- Prater noted that the County did a bond resolution some time ago for the jails. The bond issue was never issued and there is now an overcrowding issue at the jails. As a result the jails are under a lock down situation.

8. Knowledge and Innovation Feature

Department of Human Services (DHS) Jim Casey Youth Initiative – (Maritato)

- Maritato talked about the initiative that DHS has been working on for the past few years for the population that is aging out of foster care. The initiative is a way to engage these youth.
- DHS is in need of role models, support systems, and the like that will help youth stay on a good path. Staff is interested in finding mentors for the youth and for some apprentice opportunities for the youth.

American Society of Employers (ASE) Youth Mentoring Program – (Trinee Moore and Tiffany Hilson)

- The ASE Employers Educational Foundation (ASEE) operates two mentoring programs out of the Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Service Center. Both programs are funded by ETCS through workforce development.
- Through the Work First Program, ASE provides mentoring to individuals who are entering or reentering the workforce. Mentees are paired with professional individuals who provide support during their transition. In addition, group-mentoring sessions are offered monthly with topics ranging from Handling Diversity in the Workplace to Saying Focused to Achieve Your Goals.
- A Youth Leadership and Mentoring Program, It's All About U, is a six-week program that focuses on providing opportunities and experiences to enable foster care youth, aged 14-21, to see themselves as successful. The program emphasizes employability skill development, self-direction and self-confidence. To achieve this goal, participants attend weekly workshops on topics such as budgeting, decision making, and effective communication. Upon completion, participants are provided with a career portfolio, certificate of achievement, resume, and cover letter.

9. Report of the Executive Director – (Rusher)

A. Federal/State/Local Updates

i. Commitment to Change (C2C) Partnership

- Rusher drew attention the C2C partnership report that was included in the meeting packets.
- C2C is the MEGA P of Community Action. It is a commitment to change how we do business with the faith based community in the County. ETCS is working with the Director of the Governor's Office Community and Faith-Based Initiatives (OFBCI) Greg Roberts. After Roberts showed the C2C Partnership to the Governor she asked to come down. Governor Granholm came down, had breakfast with us, and asked that no press be invited. She thanked our group for what we were doing.
- Also, in tandem with the C2C, the Governor's office hosted its 2nd Annual Faith and Community Based Resource Symposium in August. Rusher was on a panel with others. Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and other leaders were there. After welcoming everyone to the event, the Governor thanked Washtenaw County for the work we are doing here. In the afternoon, Rusher and Pastor Ferrell were part of a panel that talked about the Statewide SHARE Network and Access Points that we are a part of. Board members will hear more about these initiatives in the coming months.

- To keep this momentum going, we are going to host our own local community and faith based leadership summit along with other community partners. Board members should be on the lookout for an invitation to that event.
 - ii. MEGA P – this item will be moved to the next meeting due to today’s time constraints
- B. Resolutions
- Most of these resolutions are continuation grants
- i. Ratification of the Chair of the Board’s signature on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Displaced Homemakers Program plan, in the amount of \$35,872.00, for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007
 - This is a pass through grant. The State selected the Women’s Center of America to be the recipient of this grant.
 - ii. Ratification of the Chair of the Board’s signature on the FY 06 Michigan Works! Service Center (MWSC) Operations Funds Application to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 in the amount of \$147,389
 - This is a continuation grant to operate the Service Center.
 - iii. Ratification of the Chair of the Board’s signature on the PY 2006 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Dislocated Worker Scholarship Grant to the DLEG for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 in the amount of \$31,416
 - The only new resolution is the Dislocated Scholarship Grant. This money is for paying for participant tuition. There are no new services with this; it just allows us to pay for tuition.
 - iv. Ratification of the Chair of the Board’s signature on the PY 2005 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Incentive Grant in the amount of \$18,470 for the period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006
 - These dollars are granted to us for exceeding all of the 17 performance standards for the year 2004. An overview of the workforce programming and the performance measures for this year was provided in the meeting packet.
- Ouimet moved to pass all four resolutions. Robinson supported. Resolutions pass.

10. Report of the Committees

A. Education Advisory Group (EAG)

The next EAG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18 at the WISD at 3:00 PM.

11. Report of the Community Action Board (CAB)

The next meeting of the CAB will be on Monday, September 25 at the MWSC at 6:00 PM.

12. Adjourn

McKnight-Morton moved to adjourn the meeting. Grabber supported. Peters adjourned the meeting at 10:03 AM.