

Washtenaw County
Workforce Development Board
Education Advisory Group

Meeting Date: Monday, May 12, 2008

Meeting Time: 10:30 AM

Members Present: Sara Aeschbach, Rick Leyshock, Bill Miller, Kay Moler, Cathie Dries

Members Absent: James Bunton, Patricia Dahl, Michael DuRussel, Jody Gielinski, Steven Gulick, Linda King, Cynthia Travis, Diana McKnight-Morton (excused), Scott Menzel, Christina Montague, David Potter, Timothy Robinson, Jeff Roher, Clifford L. Smith, Larry Whitworth (excused), Anne Williams, Art Williams

Staff Present: Trena Rusher, Jenny Bivens, Tiffany Lucas

I. Call to Order

- Miller called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Aeschbach moved to approve the agenda as presented. Leyshock supported. The meeting agenda was approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes

- Leyshock moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Moler supported. The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Report of the Chair

A. Updates and Announcements

- Miller reported that there are efforts to develop a new curriculum for high school students. The curriculum will focus on math, science, and technology. Many schools will also be transitioning to a new trimester system that will accelerate high school programs and allow students to complete the requirements for graduation in March. The trimester system will advance students based on their ability to master skills, rather than their ability to simply complete required coursework. The hope is

that this system will ensure that students are better equipped to begin college or move into the workforce.

Miller noted that he would like the Workforce Development Board to support the new curriculum, as better equipped students will ultimately result in a better equipped workforce.

Leyschock moved to recommend that the Workforce Development Board grant \$50,000.00 to support the creation and implementation of curriculum with a technology, science, and math focus. Moler supported. Motion carried.

Dries commented that there are many technology and science based programs already in existence however, many schools lack the resources and funding necessary to support the programs. Dries suggested that rather than investing in creating a new program, that the Education Advisory Group (EAG) explores programs which are already available. Leyschock responded with a suggestion that the EAG first evaluate the quality of the existing programs against the quality of what is being proposed by Miller to determine what the better option is.

B. ECA Update

Miller noted that the Early College Alliance (ECA) thanked the Workforce Development Board for their support, and asked that David Dugger, Director of the ECA, give a full update on the progression of the program. Dugger reported that the Early College Alliance is currently experiencing difficulty finding lab space at Eastern Michigan University for their students. As a temporary solution the ECA is scheduling time in the EMU labs for the students, but Dugger noted that many of the labs at Eastern Michigan University are substandard to most high school labs in the County. Rusher commented that Lena Barkley of CVS may be able to assist with the lab issues, and suggested that this would be a great opportunity for partnership to pitch to CVS. Dugger agreed.

Continuing, Dugger noted that the ECA is also experiencing issues with transportation and school lunches. The ECA students are expected to provide their own transportation to and from campus, which presents a problem for students without vehicles. Students also do not have lunch facilities on campus where free or reduced lunches can be served so students in the program who would generally receive a free or reduced lunch no longer have that option. These students struggle to buy lunch on campus or do not eat. Dugger asked that the EAG members lend any help available to assist with these issues.

V. Report of the Executive Director

A. Local/ State/Federal Updates

Local

- Rusher reported that she has been working with local partners and Larry Molner of the University of Michigan who received a grant from the Economic Development Agency (EDA) for distressed communities. The first step to secure this grant is to bring all the community stakeholders together to discuss a plan, which Rusher and the partners are working on. The grant has the potential to bring up to 300 million dollars into the community.
- The Successful Communities group has been working together to determine how to revitalize the County. The work on these projects is progressing well.
- We have launched our new e-magazine in partnership with Ann Arbor SPARK. It is called CONCENTRATE. The e-magazine publishes only positive newsworthy stories about Washtenaw County. There is always a video feature sponsored by the Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau and ETCS sponsors the Talent Crunch section of the e-magazine, which spotlights the hottest jobs in the County every week. The membership reading is currently up to 200,000 readers.

State

- Rusher reported that the Council of Labor and Economic Growth had recently met with Governor Granholm who announced that 33% of all Michigan residents currently live in poverty. In response to this alarming statistic the Governor will host a Poverty Summit on November 13th at COBO Hall in Detroit. Rusher invited the members to attend if interested.

Federal

- The Workforce Development Board (WDB) is still watching events in Washington and urging for WIA reauthorization.

B. Partnership with CVS

- Rusher reported that she has spoken to Lena Barkley of CVS about a potential partnership in Washtenaw County and feels the prospect is promising. Barkley is a Regional Field Manager for CVS and has started a similar partnership with Detroit designed to integrate curriculum that prepares students to enter into careers with CVS in pharmacy and is a model nationwide. Rusher noted that this will fit well with the new curriculum proposed by Miller and the Early College Alliance which are both focused on science, math,

technology, and health careers. A meeting has been set to discuss this partnership with the EAG for June 9th at 3:00 PM at the Administrative Office of ETCS. Dries commented that the partnership with CVS may be very narrow in scope, and noted that Barkley may only be interested in training students to work for CVS. We agreed to discuss further to have a positive relation with CVS.

VI. Other Business

- There was no other business.

VII. Adjournment

- Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM.