

Washtenaw County  
**Workforce Development Board**  
General Session  
Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, July 5, 2007 **Meeting Time:** 8:00 AM

**Meeting Location:** Washtenaw County Human Services Bldg. 555 Towner, Ypsilanti

**Members Present:** James Bunton, Jesse Bernstein, Nicholas Fortson, Gene Graber  
Fiona Greenland, Mary Kerr, Mike Martin, Reid McCarthy,  
Mark Ouimet, Keith Peters, Anne Williams, Donn Wolf,  
Jeff Irwin, Wesley Prater, Steven Gulick, Michael Schippiani

**Members Absent:** William Miller, Cindy Harrison, Clifford L. Smith, Jr.,  
Diana McKnight- Morton, Eric Mahler, Gregory Gurka, Gregg Weaver,  
Cynthia Maritato, Jennifer Leach, Timothy Robinson

**I. Call to Order**

Peters called the meeting to order at 8:10 AM.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Peters welcomed everyone to the meeting. Board members, guests and staff introduced themselves.

**III. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**IV. Approval of the Agenda**

- Wolf moved to approve the meeting agenda. Fortson supported. The meeting agenda was approved.

**V. Consent Agenda**

A. Approval of the 5/03/07 Meeting Minutes

- Bernstein commented that he was not listed as an absent member on the 5/03/07 minutes, and should be added.
- Wolf moved to approve the minutes as amended. Bunton supported. The meeting minutes were approved as amended.

B. Federal/ State/ Local Updates

- Rusher noted that the updates should be listed under "Report of the Executive Director". Peters agreed and continued to agenda item D, Resolutions.

C. Resolutions

- Ratification of the Chair of the Boards' signature on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Plans in the total amount of \$2,731,894 for the period of July 1, 2007 Through June 30, 2008 for **etc.**

**Bernstein moved to approve the resolution. Wolf supported. Resolution passed.**

No discussion

- Ratification of the Chair of the Boards' signature on the program year (PY) 2006 Workforce Investment Act Incentive Grant for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 in the amount of \$23, 922; authorizing the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts.  
**Wolf moved to approve the resolution. Prater supported. Resolution passed.**

No discussion

- Ratification of the Chair of the Boards' signature on the 2007 Trade Adjustment Assistance Program in the amount of \$118,001 for the period of October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007 for the employment training and community services department.
- There was discussion.  
**Gulick moved to approve the resolution. Prater supported. Resolution passed.**

## **VI. Report of the Chair**

### **A. Announcements and Updates**

#### **i. Legislative Day**

- Peters noted that he, Trenda Rusher, Jenny Bivens, Cindy Harrison, Jeff Irwin, and **etcs** partner Maura Campbell of M3 Strategies attended the Michigan Works! Legislative Day in Lansing on June 20, 2007. Peters explained that the purpose of this years' Legislative Day was to gather support behind the 40 million dollar Granholm initiative, No Worker Left Behind (NWLB). This initiative will help drive Workforce Development throughout the State by increasing our talent pool. The Governor met with the Michigan Works! group for approximately an hour. Washtenaw County is in full support of the initiative.

### **B. Business Update**

- Bernstein announced that the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce will be moving to 115 W. Huron, and will also have a new Vice President of Government Affairs, Katherine Profit.
- Peters noted that the new Ypsilanti Walgreen's is almost ready to move in, and should be opening shortly.

### **C. Labor Update**

- Prater notes that road work in the County is going well and that many road projects are happening at the universities this summer. The building trades are also doing well with the exception of the housing market, since home sales are down.

- Workers in the culinary industry have been upgrading their skills and hopefully will begin to generate new jobs and income.
- UAW local 102 has signed a seven year contract to build water heaters. These water heaters will be the only all union made water heaters in the Country.
- The County is continuing to explore wind energy. This could potentially create an incredible amount of jobs. The Commissioners have been at debate over this issue for quite some time, trying to decide whether wind energy is a good investment for Washtenaw County, since there is not significant wind potential here.

D. City of Ann Arbor Liaison Report

- There was no City Liaison present.

**VII. Report of the Executive Director**

A. Announcements

- Rusher asked that the Board members mark their calendars for the upcoming honor of former Board member Jim Frenza by resolution at the July 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Commissioners meeting. An email will be sent out to the entire Board as a reminder, and inform Board members whether Mr. Frenza will be present for the honor.
- Rusher announced that Brenda Niwaji will be retiring after 33 years of service with the State of Michigan.

B. Federal/ State/ Local Updates

*Federal*

- There are no federal updates at this time.

*State*

- The MCAAA Directors recently met with the DLEG staff in a retreat to talk about state issues and WIA authorization and David Bradley would like our help.

*Local*

- On July 11, 2007 the founders of Washtenaw County MEGA-P will be meeting to discuss the future of the partnership as well as it's successes to this point.
- Keith Cooley, Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) attended as a speaker at one of the **etcs** Career Change boot camps. At that boot camp many of the **etcs** partners were in attendance to show that the community is involved and is there to help residents that are unemployed and looking for new opportunities. Rusher noted that there was an array of talent in attendance, but no lower functioning attendees. As a result, **etcs** in conjunction with the Michigan Works! Service Center is in the process of putting together another workshop aimed at this audience called "Keeping it Real". Also in progress is a workshop designed for employers called "Show Me the Talent".
- **etcs** administrative services will be relocating to Key Bank at the end of August and part of that site will become a hub for Washtenaw County employers to use as a human resource link. Etc Community Services will also be moved to the Harriet Street Center, in the former location of Biggie's Restaurant.

C. Funding for Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership Program

- Discussion

Bernstein explained that the Youth Leadership Program was implemented as a test to determine whether or not youth could handle the rigorousness of the Ann Arbor Leadership program, which was formerly open only to adults.

The Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce generally funds six high school students for this program in conjunction with the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board, and this will be the third year of the program.

Bernstein noted that the feedback from the participating youth has been positive and many of them feel as though they no longer need to leave the state to find employment as a result of the career opportunities they are exposed to throughout the program.

**Gulick moved to support funding of the Youth Leadership Program. Prater supported. Motion passed.**

D. Kiosk Information System Proposal

Rusher reported that **etcs** has been working with the Washtenaw County United Way to proceed with this project, which will place 211 kiosks at Arborland and Briarwood Malls, where residents can access helpful information from **etcs** and other sources.

There has also been suggestion of adding a third site at the Carpenter Rd. Meijer, but the request for \$12,000.00 to support this project has not changed.

There was discussion.

**Wolf moved to approved additional research into the project. Prater supported. Motion passed.**

E. Ratification of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Michigan Works! System Plan for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

There was discussion.

**Wolf moved to support the resolution. Gulick supported. The resolution was accepted.**

F. Approval of staff recommendations for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program services delivery for the period of August 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Bivens stated that currently **etcs** has contracts with HRDI, Ross, and also ASE, and all three have exceeded their expected performance levels. Therefore, it is her recommendation that the Board continue funding for the HRDI, Ross, and additionally AFL-CIO in place of ASE, who will not be continuing their contracts for the 2007-2008 program years.

Bivens also noted that there were two other applicants for contracts with **etcs**, Burning Bush and Music COM. Neither met the qualifications necessary.

**Ouimet moved to accept the staff recommendations. Gulick supported. The recommendations were approved.**

G. Gateway Partnership for Financial Literacy Center (not on agenda)

Rusher explained that the Gateway Board has been working with LISC to explore opportunities of opening a center for financial literacy, noting that the poverty rate in the County is now 12% and foreclosures in the county now tally 204. In light of this information, it can be inferred that assisting residents with becoming financially literate will be extremely beneficial.

There was discussion.

**Wolf moved to support the partnership with Gateway and LISC. Martin supported. The motion passed.**

**VIII. Knowledge and Innovation Feature**

**A. Workforce Development and SPARK**

- Cell stated that the mission of SPARK is to basically connect talent with opportunity, through company retention, company attraction, investing in entrepreneurs, and workforce development.

In conjunction with this mission SPARK has hosted CEO forums, business peer groups, mingle and match events, which are comparable to speed dating for start-ups, and emerging CEO programs. In addition, SPARK held a Talent Primer early in the year, which resulted in the launch of several new businesses in the County, almost 90 new senior executives, and 220 companies which have posted over 70 positions with SPARK.

**IX. Report of the Board of Commissioners' Chief Elected Official**

**A. Announcements and Updates**

- Irwin stated that the County has helped to create a much more wholesome economic development strategy, and hopefully there will be more economic development funds available to help. The Commissioners are working on a commuter rail system, and tax foreclosure prevention measures. There was an employee added to Catherine McClarey's staff to assist with this. Energy efficiency is another area where the county is taking a leadership role. Prater notes that in concert with those efforts the County Road Commission has adopted a policy that all new roads meet the energy and environmental standards. Irwin concludes that Washtenaw County has also been developing a brown field program and there are tax credits available for developing run down properties.

**X. Report of the Committees**

**A. Education Advisory Group (EAG)**

- The EAG is continuing to work with the Early College Alliance (ECA) program. There are no further reports.

**B. Strategic Planning Committee**

- Williams reported that the Strategic Planning Committee is moving forward with the "Beyond" Report Card. The committee is reviewing the five current goals outlined in the previous report card to determine if they need to be adjusted and a draft should be completed in time for the joint annual meeting of the Workforce Development and Community Action Boards.

**C. Employers Committee**

- The committee has not met since the last general session. There is no report at this time.

**XI. Report of the Community Action Board**

- Wolf reported that the Community Action Board recently appointed a committee to organize the honor of our community volunteers. The committee presented three options to the CAB board, and the board voted for option one, which is to honor

these volunteers as a part of the joint annual meeting of the Workforce Development and Community Action Boards. Wolf asked that the Workforce Development Board also take a vote.

- There was brief discussion.

**Prater moved to accept option one. Peters supported. The motion passed.**

## **XII. Other Business**

- Peters announced that He, Rusher, and Bivens had recently met with Jim Kosteva, and Freman Hendrix about Interview Stream and have worked out a deal to do online training for interviews.

Rusher added that she highly recommends that the WDB participate in this program, as it meets the EEO requirements, and is professionally organized to be used as a learning tool, and will only cost the County \$1.00.

There was discussion.

**Prater moved to approve the funding of Interview Stream. Wolf supported. Motion passed.**

## **XIII. Adjournment**

- Peters adjourned the meeting at 10:08 AM.