

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

**Meeting Date:** May 3, 2007 **Meeting Time:** 8:00 AM

**Members Present:** James Bunton, Cynthia Maritato, Suzanne Bade, Nicholas Fortson, Gene Graber, Fiona Greenland, Gregory Gurka, Cindy Harrison, Mary Kerr, Mark Ouimet , Keith Peters, Anne Williams, Donn Wolf, William Miller, Gregg Weaver, Steven Gulick, Diana McKnight –Morton, Timothy Robinson, Mike Martin, Reid McCarthy,

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Leach, Eric Mahler, Clifford Smith, Jr., Wesley Prater, Jesse Bernstein

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

**Guests Present:** Therese Taylor-Ross, Verna McDaniel, Peg Windsor

**I. Call to order**

Peters called the meeting to order at 8:06 AM.

**II. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

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

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Peters moved to approve the 3/15/07 minutes with the addition of Suzanne Bade's name as a present member. Harrison Supported. The 3/15/07 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

**V. Consent Agenda Items**

A. WIA RFP

- The WIA RFP was updated and will be amended.
- The current contracts will be extended 30 days to accommodate the WDB meeting schedule.

B. United Way/ **etcs**/ 211 Kiosks

- The United Way/**etcs** Kiosks concept was formed due to an overwhelming demand by 211 users for help accessing the resources offered by **etcs**.
- The proposal was originally approved by the Executive Committee on April 27, 2007.
- There will be two initial locations, one at the Briarwood Mall, and one at Arborland Mall. The kiosks will initially be indoors, but outdoor locations

will be considered as well. The cost will be \$4,936.00 per unit, not including wireless internet networking.

- **Harrison moved to support two kiosks at \$4,936.00 each. Robinson supported. The motion was passed.**

C. Child Care Network Partnership

- Jesse Bernstein chairs the 4C's council and has been the brain child of this partnership project. Through this partnership the Child Care Network will assist individuals interested in starting their own daycare centers.
- The program will include training at Washtenaw Community College and the Child Care network. The area chambers have also agreed to be a part of this partnership to help give those completing the program successfully the resources they will need to flourish as new businesses.
- There is already a former Pfizer employee who is interested in pursuing a business in Daycare who'd like to get involved with this program.
- **Wolf moved to support the partnership of etcs with the Child Care Network, WCC, and the area chambers to develop a day care training program. Harrison supported. The motion was passed.**

D. Approval of Incumbent Worker Training funding

- Gulick moved to approve the incumbent worker training funding expenditures. Ouimet supported. The motion was passed.

E. Approval of the EMU/USDOL/ Michigan Works!/ etcs Grant Proposal

- etcs has discussed partnering with EMU, USDOL, and Michigan Works! to secure a special grant that would fund a program targeting talent from the recent plant closings in our community and helping these workers to re-tool themselves for the changing workforce.
- This program will be modeled after the (ECA) Early College Alliance Health Careers Program.
- There is one million dollars in year end discretionary funds that etcs can apply for to support the program, but board approval is necessary in order to do so.
- **Wolf moved to support the grant application for \$1,000,000.00 discretionary dollars. Miller supported. The motion was passed.**

F. Approval of the Electronic Networking U of M/ Tech Transfer

- Jim Kosteva and Diane Durance have been able to meet with the five alumni directors of the colleges in the Washtenaw area regarding the Electronic Networking Portal.
- This project will be a partnership between etcs, the University of Michigan - School of Information, Washtenaw Community College, and MEDC. The project requires \$200,000.00 for a two-year timeframe. The four partners will contribute 50,000.00 each. etcs's commitment to this \$50,000.00 contribution is contingent upon whether or not the other partners contribute \$50,000.00 as well, which they must do. This portal will enhance our ability to keep educated and skilled workers in Michigan.
- **Wolf moved to approve a \$50,000.00 contribution to the Electronic Networking Portal contingent upon the contributions of the other three partners. Gulick supported. The motion was passed**

G. SOS Continued Funding Approval

- **Wolf moved to earmark 61,800.00 for SOS. Harrison supported. The motion was passed.**
- It was noted that HUD has requested that SOS provide a match letter from **etcs** showing this amount of funding. HUD's application is due now, so the letter has been already been provided to SOS, however they will still need to come back through the board to procure these funds.

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

- Trena Rusher will receive the NAWDP Advancement of the Profession Award in Reno, Nevada on May 21, 2007.
- Rusher and Peters have had a meeting with Congressman Dingell. He has agreed to support WIA in Washington.

### A. Business Update

- SPARK is working with the area Chambers to reopen the plant that was formerly Engineered Plastics. There was also an announcement from SPARK that a company will be expanding and bringing 208 new jobs to our community.

### B. Labor Update

- Building Trades is doing well. Journeymen Upgrading will be partnering with Washtenaw Community College to give journey men the opportunity to go back to school earning specialized certificates and associates degrees.
- Visteon is headed into collective bargaining.
- Farmer Jack's in Wayne County just gave an announcement that they will be shutting down.

### C. City of Ann Arbor Liaison Report

- There is no report at this time.
- Our Community Action Board has been working with some community partners to bring a grocery store to the community as a form of promoting healthy eating habits. It has been very difficult to get grocery stores to invest in the community.

## **VII. Knowledge and Information Feature (Rick Snyder)**

- Traditionally we have focused workforce development around reforming the educational system, however, if all we do is fix the educational system we will only be preparing our children to abandon Michigan.
- Many of the people that lose their jobs in Michigan end up under-employed, staying unemployed, or leaving the state all together. The missing link is employers. We should focus on making people employers and entrepreneurs. We need to assess whether these people have the skills to become C-level executives and do we have any pre-existing programs to help them become entrepreneurs? What we have come up with is a three month program called the Center for Experienced Workers.
- On the first tier of the program we will offer counseling to help the workers determine whether or not they are fit to be entrepreneurs. We should work to make this program accredited so that we can certify these persons once they have completed the three month schedule successfully.
- If you are a start-up in this area your biggest challenge is finding senior management in this area. This program will provide these employers with skilled and certified individuals they can trust to do the job – thereby, enticing businesses to stay in Michigan.

- The boot camps Washtenaw County currently offers are an exploration of the businesses. We must begin to create jobs. This program will teach people to be leaders, but they must already possess a basic innate ability and skill.
- The program will assign a mentor to each participant, and there will also be time for them to attend a boot camp.
- The program will need scholarship subsidy.
- **Peters moves to give Rusher the authority to move forward with the exploration of the Center for Experienced Workers. Wolf supported. The motion was passed.**

## VIII. Report of the Board of Commissioners' Chief Elected Official

- Regarding the lawsuit between the three counties - we have got to figure out how to work together and to communicate after the lawsuit. It was decided by the board to put together a mediation team to get the lawsuit settled.

## IX. Report of the Executive Director

### A. Announcements

- Keith Cooley came to visit with our board and he supports our efforts with entrepreneurship, lifelong learning, and attaining and attracting talent to the state.
- We would like to thank Verna for attending this meeting and representing Bob Guenzel.
- SPARK was asked to submit a proposal which included Amy Cell. A formal written report will be forthcoming, but there will be 80,000.00 to cover Amy's office space and other administration fees.
- **Peters moved to support the 80,000.00 proposal submitted by SPARK to accommodate Amy Cell's office space and administration fees. Wolf supported. The motion passed.**
- Rusher and Kerr met with Suzuki Meyers. Washtenaw county will be the leaders and experts in training our workforce in service for Japanese employers. We are asking that the board support the enhancement of our Regional Skills Alliance.
- **Peters moved to support enhancement of the Regional Skills Alliance. Williams supports. The motion was passed.**

### B. Federal/State/Local Updates

#### *Federal*

1. Heartland Conference Update
  - Tenda did a workshop about our Video Interviewing. The response was great and well received.
2. Living in Michigan
  - This program aims to provide housing opportunities for all Michigan residents, and to help rebuild our economy by improving the quality of life in Michigan's cities, towns, and villages with special attention to those with high concentrations of poverty. The community action is trying to raise \$150,000.00 in the state coffers to support this initiative. We are asking that our workforce development board support the initiative as well.
3. **etcs** Move to Key Bank
  - **etcs** corporate services and administrative offices will be relocating Key Bank in mid August. All other staff will be re-located to the Michigan Works! Services Center at 304 Harriet Street, which is being expanded.
4. Share Network Updates

- We have thirteen (13) access points throughout the county loaded with literacy software. We are also holding a huge workshop at the Eagle Crest golf club today - showing community churches how to secure federal funds to help expand their community projects.
5. Gateway Updates
    - The Gateway board recently sold the last Gateway home. We now have four families living in homes rehabilitated by the Gateway board.
  6. No Worker Left Behind Update
    - Governor Granholm is pushing the No Worker Left Behind Initiative. We will continue to support her efforts with this initiative.

## **X. Report of the Committees**

### **A. Education Advisory Group Report**

- We are working on a sustainable funding program for Success by Six.

### **B. Strategic Planning Committee Report**

- Doing the addendum along with looking at all these forward.

### **C. Employer's Committee Report**

The committee has been melded with the Pfizer Talent Team and has been assisting with the efforts helping Pfizer employees find other opportunities.

## **XI. Report of the Community Action Board (CAB)**

### **A. Foster Grandparents Luncheon**

- We have about 68 foster grandparents. The volunteer at the luncheon was 92 years old. These volunteers are given lunch and \$220 per month for their expenses.

### **B. MCAAA State Awards**

- We had three of our foster grandparents honored at the awards. Over 60 Meals on Wheels volunteers and our Youth Recreation Department volunteers were also awarded.

## **XII. Other Business**

- There was no Other Business.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

- Peters adjourned the meeting at 10:06 AM