



A Private-Public Partnership Serving Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties  
222 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4628

**Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 2009**

WDB Chair, Mary Oudsema called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. at the W. E. Upjohn Institute, 300 South Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**Members Present:** Jennifer Alday (PS), Rick Anderson (Labor), Dennis Berkebile (PS), Thom Brennan (PS), Peggy Gagen (CBO), Lisa Godfrey (PS), Joe Herdus (PS), Brian Johnson (PS), Chris Kadulski (DHS), Ellen Kisinger-Rothi (CBO), Anne Moreland (PS), Mary Oudsema (PS), Steward Sandstrom (PS), Barry Visel (PS), Jacki Wahl (PS)

**Members Absent:** David Allen (PS), Robin Baker (At-Large), Diane Donovan (PS), Susan Einspahr (PS), Bill Farmer (Labor), Jim Harrington (Educ), Erv Heidbrink (Labor), Ian Kennedy (PS), Cathi Knapp (Econ Dev), Jerry Love (PS), Kim Luther (DOC), Linda Marcon (PS), Casey Putnam (Educ), Robert Smith (MRS)

**MW Staff Present:** Jeanne Konrad, Kathy Olsen, Kara Stewart, Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh, Robert Straits, Bridget Timmeney, Amanda Wright

**Service Providers:** Karen Carlisle (Y.O.U. /KRESA), Ron Fuller (Y.O.U. /KRESA), Robert Harrison (LMC), Don Hepner, (Y.O.U. /KRESA), Curt Mastos (MI HRDI), Tim McGann (LMC), Dolly Roselip (Y.O.U. /KRESA), Eric Stewart (LMC)

**Guests Present:** Sue Cinka (Kalamazoo College), Cari DeLong (WMU), Chuck Frisbee (Constantine Public Schools), Tim Holysz (WMU), Darrell Junkins (WMU), Lynn Kelly-Albertson (WMU), Eric Kerney (WMU), Stephan Keto (WMU), Linda Lawton (Borgess Health), JoAnn Marcilous (WMU), Barbara Marshall (SJISD), Tom Muckel (Constantine Public Schools), Steve Root (WMU), Lori Stanaszek (Greater Kalamazoo United Way), Tracey Summey (Goodwill Industries), Marcie Weathers (Kalamazoo College), Nancy Wolf (S. County Community Garden/Village of Vicksburg)

**RECOGNITION OF YOUTH PROGRAM SUPERVISORS AND WORK SITES** – Dolly Roselip, Director of Youth Opportunities Unlimited, reported numerous organizations supported the Summer Youth Work Experience Program and highlighted a full page news article that appeared in the previous Saturday’s Kalamazoo Gazette. Reprints of the newspaper article were made available at the meeting. A few of the supervisors and job sites were being recognized at today’s meeting for their outstanding commitment and dedication to the program. Mary Oudsema, WDB Chair and Dolly Roselip presented plaques to the following supervisors and worksites: Tom Muckel, Constantine Public Schools; Tracey Summey, Goodwill Industries Three Rivers Store; Sue Cinka and Marcie Weathers, Kalamazoo College; Nancy Wolf, South County Community Garden/Village of Vicksburg; Cari DeLong, Darrell Junkins, Lynn Kelly-Albertson, Eric Kerney, Stephan Keto, JoAnn Marcilous, and Steve Root, Western Michigan University (WMU). Tonya Nash, Vicksburg Community Schools was also recognized, however she was unable to attend. Following the recognition, Stephan Keto, WMU grounds supervisor, reported 70 youth were placed at WMU during the summer months. The youth worked alongside professional staff in various work experience assignments where they learned new skills and practiced teamwork. He reported on two of the youth and how they were directly affected by the work experience opportunity. In summarizing, Mr. Keto stated that we must invest in the talents of our youth and that our economy absolutely depends on doing so.

**PROGRAM** – Steward Sandstrom reported on the Kalamazoo Area Chamber of Commerce’s workforce development programs and services and the Chamber’s focus on growing, keeping and attracting talent to the region. In the area of growth, the Chamber is interested in a number of activities to assist in keeping children and families healthy from birth through college. The Chamber’s efforts to retain talent include supporting internships, fostering partnerships with local colleges, and sponsoring the Youth Professionals Program and Leadership Kalamazoo. To attract talent, local opportunities are promoted on the Chamber’s Kalamazoo Jobs website.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion made by Ellen Kisinger-Rothi and supported by Dennis Berkebile to approve the WDB meeting minutes of September 10, 2009. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Joe Herdus and supported by Dennis Berkebile to approve the WDB Executive Committee meeting minutes of October 8, 2009. Motion carried.**

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Workforce Development Board Appointment** – Kathy Olsen requested Board consideration and approval of the appointment of Jennifer Alday, Associate Recruiter at Borgess Health, as a private sector representative on the Workforce Development Board for the balance of a two-year term beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2010. She reported Ms. Alday would be replacing Don Ederly who has accepted a position with KRESA as Manager of the Three Rivers Michigan Works Service Center.

**Motion made by Dennis Berkebile and supported by Lisa Godfrey to approve the appointment of Jennifer Alday, representing the private sector to the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph WDB for the balance of a two-year term beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2010. Motion carried.**

**2010 Alumni Award Nomination** – Kathy Olsen reported five nominations were received from local service providers for the annual Michigan Works Association Alumni Awards. A committee reviewed the nominations and is recommending that the nomination of Ed Schlabach, a participant in the WIA Adult Program, be forwarded to the State Association to represent the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph MWA. Mr. Schlabach was laid off from the tool and die industry and was determined to make a significant career change into the field of nursing. He returned to school to complete the LPN program at Glen Oaks Community College (GOCC). He wanted to further his training and approached MW for assistance. He graduated with his Associate Degree of Applied Science with a RN and was hired as a registered nurse at Bronson where he works full-time, 3<sup>rd</sup> shift, in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. His supervisor spoke very highly of him and stated that she believes “Ed’s compassion for families has helped to promote the successful discharge of high risk babies back into the home.” Mr. Schlabach recently returned to school to work towards completion of a Bachelor’s degree in nursing. He and his wife have 10 children, 6 of them are adopted.

**Motion made by Lisa Godfrey and supported by Joe Herdus to approve the nomination of Ed Schlabach as the Alumni Award Nomination representing the Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Michigan Works Area. Motion carried.**

**Program Status Report** –Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh distributed a Program Status Report that included data through September 30, 2009. He reported due to the economy and the recent change in focus on longer term training, some of the program employment rates are below contract goals. The positive terminations under the Jobs, Education and Training Program are cases that were closed due to income. Staff continues to see an increase in customers at the service centers and as of the end of the first quarter, customers served is 54% of goal.

**Legislative Update** – Bob Straits reported the federal legislature is currently focused on healthcare programs and little attention has been given to the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). There has been some effort to try to align Welfare Reform legislation with WIA. Although a State budget was reached, the funding levels for the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (MPRI) and the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Program are uncertain. It is expected that MPRI will be funded at the current level along with an increase in the number of prisoners released, thus the cost per participant will be affected. A 15% reduction in JET funding is expected.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Disability Awareness Resources Team (DART)** – Jeanne Konrad reported the DART Committee is a standing committee of the Board and the most recent Committee minutes were included in the agenda packet. There has been some turnover in Committee membership during the past year. During the next few months, the Committee will review demographics of customers served in the workforce development programs.

**Education Advisory Group** – Kathy Olsen reported the EAG would like to congratulate Deb Miller, Executive Director for Education for Employment on being named Career and Technical Education Administrator of the year for 2009-2010 by the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals.

**Monitoring and Evaluation Committee** – Kathy Olsen reported The Monitoring and Evaluation Committee reviewed the One Stop Services Center Operations, Employment Services and Trade Act services. The number of customers seeking services at the service centers has almost doubled during the past year. The Unemployment Agency recently opened a temporary office at the Department of Human Services office in Kalamazoo and this has been a great help in serving customers who have Unemployment Insurance concerns. Employment Services is providing WorkKeys testing to program participants and WorkKeys testing is also available to the general public. New workshops were added to the service center schedules. Staff created a newsletter that includes job search tips and staff is starting a networking club for customers with advanced skills. Kalamazoo Public Schools is offering a GED class at the Kalamazoo Service Center. The Kalamazoo-St. Joseph MWA was the first in the State to have a mass layoff under the new Trade Act rules and regulations and staff did a tremendous job providing information and services to large numbers. Other MW areas are looking at the process as a best practice that can be shared.

**Marketing Committee** – Kathy Olsen reported staff participated at an event at Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) for “Adults in Transition.” The event was well attended and Michigan Works sponsored a booth to share Service Center resources and staff participated on a panel presentation. There were three events held around the State to celebrate the 100,000 person receiving training under the NWLB Initiative. At the Grand Rapids event on October 28, MW Areas from the southwest corner of the State were in attendance along with many customers who received training. The Kalamazoo-St. Joseph MWA Area was represented by four participants, one employer and six staff. Any Levin personally acknowledged each Michigan Works area and all front-line staff who work directly with customers were given special recognition. At the event, the Governor announced that NWLB Initiative will continue. MW was a sponsor of the “Deals of the Year” event in Grand Rapids on October 23 and sponsored the “Leadership Kalamazoo” fall reception on October 28. A staff training and appreciation for all service providers is planned for November 11. Michigan Works is sponsoring the “Michigan Transition to a Knowledge Economy” event on November 12 at Grand Valley State University and Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh will be a moderator at the event. Also on November 12, Kalamazoo-St. Joseph MWA staff will participate on a panel presentation “Establishing Effective Partnerships to Prepare Michigan Workers” at the Governor’s Statewide Faith-based and Community Resource Conference in Lansing. There will be a graduation event and Job Fair for the Energy Auditor class at Glen Oaks Community College (GOCC) on December 8. Sponsors for the event include: Consumers Energy, Indiana Michigan Power, Midwest Energy, Michigan Works, Building Science Academy and GOCC.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**MEMBERS & CITIZENS TIME** - Bob Straits reported the Governor promoted Andy Levin to Chief Workforce Officer. Barbara Marshall stated the State’s budget cuts are devastating for schools and intermediate school districts across the State. Steward Sandstrom reported that according to recent economic data, the Kalamazoo metro area is the only metro area in the State that is heading out of the recession. Steward Sandstrom asked members to please respond to an email survey sent yesterday regarding an employee tax credit. He announced there will be a breakfast meeting on December 2 and the topic of discussion will be an economic forecast. Bob Straits provided an update on Craig Schreuder’s recovery and reported that Craig continues to see daily improvement.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS** - The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. at the Upjohn Institute in Kalamazoo. The next Monitoring and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the Michigan Works Service Center in Kalamazoo. The next meeting of the full Workforce Development Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. at the Upjohn Institute in Kalamazoo.

**ADJOURNMENT** - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

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Kathy Olsen

Date

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Mary Oudsema

Date