

JOB FORCE BOARD
September 27, 2007
Orrin E. Bailey, Secretary

Members:	Present:	Excused:
Mr. David Anthony	X	
Mr. Paul Arsenault	X	
Mr. Steve Balbierz	X	
Ms. Carol Barbacovi-Muscoe	X	
Mr. Doug Bovin	X	
Mr. Will Carne	X	
Mr. David Danielson	X	
Mr. Al Hendra	X	
Mr. Jim Hermans	X	
Mr. Peter Jennings	X	
Mr. Jon Johnson	X	
Ms. Robyn Loviska		X
Ms. Vickie Micheau	X	
Mr. Rod Miller	X	
Mr. Steve Norman		X
Mr. Steve Pontrbiand		X
Mr. Anthony Retaskie	X	
Mr. Dave Rivard		X
Dr. Michael Roy		X
Ms. Jenny Short	X	
Mr. Kel Smyth		X
Mr. Roy Stern		X
Ms. Judy Watson-Olson	X	

I. Call To Order

Chair called meeting to order at 4:00 pm

II. Roll Call

A membership quorum is present. On behalf of the Michigan Works! The Job Force Board, W. Carne, Chair, welcomed Bill Raymond, Executive Director, Michigan Works! Ottawa County, Mr. Todd Gustafson; Executive Director, Berrien Cass VanBuren Michigan Works! and Ms. Christine Quinn, CEO, South Central Michigan Works!.

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by A. Hendra; motion was supported by T. Retaskie, and carried unanimously.

V. Reading, Correction, and Action on Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of previous JFB meeting was made by P. Arsenault; motion was supported by C. Muscoe, and carried unanimously.

VI. Old Business

A. Regional Skills Alliances

The minutes and updates from the Regional Skills Alliances are contained within the board packet for review.

B. Committee Reports

W. Carne reminded members that committee reports are within the packets for review as not all committees will be reporting.

1. Strategic Planning Committee

J. Short provided a report on the Strategic Planning Committee efforts on being involved in a regional economic impact study. This study is an extension of the key projects under the 21st Century Planning Initiative that is taking place across the region. The Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance has offered to provide the leadership for this process and in addition to the Upper Peninsula Workforce Investment Boards, it will also involve the K-12, post secondary education, business, economic development and other key community stakeholders. It is the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee to formally support the Regional Economic Impact Study and to assist the UPEDA in its leadership role. Motion was made by J. Short, supported by P. Arsenault and carried unanimously.

2. Council for Labor and Economic Growth

P. Arsenault and S. Balbierz reported on the recent CLEG meeting. S. Balbierz noted that the comments made at today's summit event, by Director Keith Cooley, echoed the activities underway by the CLEG. Notably, the No Worker Left Behind initiative and whether or not the State of Michigan wants to endorse a Work Readiness Certificate system for its workforce. This statewide certificate could be used by business and job seekers alike that would validate the workforce has the necessary work readiness skills to be successful in the workplace. Several other states have implemented the same or similar measures. Some states have not implemented a work readiness certificate, while others are still in various stages of research. P. Arsenault noted that a consensus by the CLEG was to continue researching Work Readiness Certificates. Overall the CLEG feels there is value to implementing some sort of Work Readiness Certificate system statewide and to go forward to look at various instruments that would best fit the needs of Michigan. It was noted the importance of taking into account the necessity to differentiate between hard skills versus attitude and other soft skills and to consider the various instruments that appropriately align to these differences.

3. Small Business and Technology Development Center(SBTDC)

P. Arsenault reported that the first Region 1 MI-SBTDC Roundtable meeting took place last month. Performance numbers are very good and the SBTDC Region 1 and Michigan Works! is a great fit. On September 24 and 25, the SBTDC held a strategic planning session that resulted in actions that will increase MI-SBTDC activities across the region. The roundtable is extremely satisfied with the progress made to date.

4. Community Relations

W. Carne noted that the Job Force Board cosponsored a Business After Hours with the Delta County Airport and the Delta County Parks and Campgrounds. The event was highly successful and is a wonderful opportunity for the Job Force Board to showcase how well it services its business and its community.

VII. New Business

A. PY 2007 Workforce Development Plans– Action

A. Hendra motioned to submit the required plan documents to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth for WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, High Concentration of Eligible Youth, Incumbent Worker Training, Wagner Peyser Employment Services and Trade Adjustment Assistance supported by J. Watson-Olson; and carried unanimously.

B. PY 2007 WIA Statewide Activities – Action

T. Retaskie motioned to submit the required plan documents to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth for WIA Statewide Activities in Service Center Operations and Capacity Building Professional Development, supported by J. Johnson and carried unanimously.

C. Resolution – Kennecott Eagle Project– Action

T. Retaskie reported that the Six County Employment Alliance Board recently unanimously passed the same resolution in support of the Kennecott Eagle Project and added that he has attended recent Kennecott hearings both in the Upper Peninsula and in Lansing and that the meetings were well attended especially by groups not in favor of the project. TV6 released a recent poll that indicated that 66% of the population was in favor of the project while 30.3% were opposed with others expressing no opinion. This project as outlined in the resolution will certainly have a positive economic impact on our region. T. Retaskie motioned for the Job Force Board to pass the resolution in support of the Kennecott Eagle Project, supported by P. Arsenault. S. Balbierz reminded that no matter what someone's personal opinion may be, he pointed out how the Job Force Board could support the resolution given that the first sentence "provided Kennecott's Eagle Project meets federal and state requirements to properly protect the environment, natural resources." This indicates that we are not the subject matter experts and are leaving that in the hands of those people who are. This project is about job creation and needs to be supported. D. Anthony noted that he is part of an elected body that still needs to make a decision regarding this and therefore, he would be abstaining. W. Carne recognized that there are a number of reasons why one would have to abstain in light of the position of their company. It was noted that it is important that members of this board need to feel free to express opinions and then have the vote. Motion carried.

VIII. Communications

Motion is made to accept the communications to file; motion is supported and carried unanimously.

IX. Public Comment

P. Arsenault commented that the Job Force Board office received a call from DLEG regarding their concern of the numerous cash requests from Michigan Works! Agencies from across the state. DLEG wanted to remind all MWAs about the three-day cash rule and that non-compliance with the rule may result in a monitoring finding. For those of us who are following the news, there is a strong potential for the State to shut down this coming Monday. If they do shut down it will affect our delivery of services. As a preventative maintenance we are trying to draw down some extra cash so that the participants in our programs do not get cut off during their training or other activities they are engaged in. Unfortunately, the DLEG seems to ignore this anomaly, instead warning workforce boards. The boards are taking a responsible position and it may result in a monitoring finding.

P. Arsenault publicly thanked Joe Esbrook for the excellent and hard work he does, especially for his efforts to make our summit such a large success. S. Balbierz extended his thanks on behalf of the Job Force Board to the Executive Leadership Team staff for all of their hard work. J. Watson Olson reminded the board that we must keep the momentum going on the interesting ideas of Ed Barlow, the discussion of Wisconsin U.P. Corridor and the role of education of children in being our next workforce. We must come back and have good discussion on how our Board can continue to be a leader in our region and to get things to happen. C. Muscoe added that our Youth Committee and Career Connections Group are key committees to assist us.

D. Bovin announced the hiring of Lloyd Mathias, as Director of CUPPAD and that the Job Force Board looks forward to working with him. D. Anthony stated that we must remember the main theme and that is regional cooperation. He is seeing progress and our Board needs to keep this in the forefront constantly because it is not easy to do. We must ensure that we can remove obstacles that prevent us from doing business in the Upper Peninsula. We must not be parochial when we look at items such as regional transportation. We must all be willing to make sacrifices for the overall good.

J. Johnson echoed the comments of J. Watson Olson on the importance of education in preparing our workforce and its impact on the shortage of skilled workers for the manufacturing sector. We have issues we are facing today to retrain workers, to increase current worker skills and then to look at our worker pipeline of the future and how education can work with us to have a skilled workforce.

X. Adjournment

Motion is made to adjourn; motion supported and carried unanimously.