

Workforce Development Board (WDB)

Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI)

Virtual Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2020

10:30 a.m.

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – *10:31 am*

II. **INTRODUCTIONS**

WDB MEMBERS PRESENT

Eileen Tussey
Jessica Mika
Brooke Sprenger
Erica Comerford
Keri Sheer
Deborah Larson
Julie Waldron
Jackie Krawczak

Brian Klele
Jason Reed
Kathleen Fox
Diane Rekowski
Eric Bachmann
Allen Nash

WDB MEMBERS ABSENT

Sheryl Coyne
Alan Mabarak
Deb Karr
John Diamond
Bill Keen
Lisa Bolen

STAFF PRESENT

Taylor Price, Clerical Support
Nicole Chamberlain, Career Advisor
Collin Hoffmeyer, Business Solutions Manager
Ned Heath, Youth Program Manager
Laura Budreau, Planning and Program Manager
Jessica Topp, Planning and Program Manager
Marisue Moreau, Director

RPI MEMBERS PRESENT

Audra LaCourt
Sara McCauley
Janie McNabb
Marisue Moreau
Jason Reed

Diane Rekowski
Doug Baum
Erika Comerford
Kathleen Fox
Collin Hoffmeyer

III. **WDB ACTION ITEM: CONSENT AGENDA**

- July 22, 2020 meeting minutes
- Local Michigan Talent Connect (MiTC) Policy

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as listed made by Eileen Tussey and seconded by Deborah Larson. Voted: All Ayes

IV. **REGIONAL PROSPERITY INITIATIVE (RPI) UPDATE**

Sara informed the board the area of focus is housing and utility assistance. There has been no tidal wave of eviction or foreclosures but they are seeing calls for assistance increase greatly with the ending of UIA and the mortgage moratorium. MEAP funding has run out and the only assistance left is from DHHS. The StepForward program which helps with back payments or property taxes is fully extended and ends on October 31st.

V. **CAREER & EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE**

Ned updated that 61b grant funding changed the fiscal agent from being one entity for the entire region to each Career and Educational Planning District (CEPD) needing to use their own Intermediate School District (ISD) as a fiscal agent. Each CEPD needs to fill out a form and send it to the State of Michigan identifying their fiscal agent yet still using the same plan that was agreed upon for the entire region. He also reminded us that Dana will be retiring in December, so he will still be the chair for the next meeting but after that we will need to replace him.

VI. **FUTURES FOR FRONTLINERS**

The Future for Frontliners is a federal program for people that have worked on the frontlines during the pandemic and are wanting to go to school to obtain an associate's degree, Jessica explained. MI works has not received many calls about the Future for Frontliners but that is believed to be because it is so easily accessible online. Kathleen Fox asked the question, will Future for Frontliners fund a person who is engaging in a program that won't end in a degree, but a certificate instead. Her example was the paramedic program offered at Kirtland. Jessica was going to check into this more with her connection on the state level, an email will be sent out with her results.

VII. **MICHIGAN DISASTER RECOVERY NATIONAL DISLOCATED WORKER GRANT COVID-19 RECOVERY PROJECT**

Due to technical difficulties Laura was unable to give her update, Jessica informed the board that the Michigan Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant is a \$25,000 two year grant. This grant targets Dislocated Workers who have been impacted by COVID-19. It also allows funds to pay for classroom training as well as work base training. The funds are also to be used for technology upgrades such as virtual delivery, electronic programs, laptops or hotspots.

VIII. BUSINESS SOLUTIONS UPDATE

Collin gave an update for the BSP's, he stated they are staying busy with the Going Pro Talent Fund which will be live Nov. 2nd. The grant will run until Nov. 30th. They recently hosted a Going Pro information session online and had roughly 40 employers join, but they are still offering one on one appointments as well. The grant is similar to years past but one difference is there is a new portion of the score card, which includes bonus incentives for assisting a worker who is on your training plan to get their high school diploma. Success stories have to be more thorough this year also.

They were able to continue with talent tours this year through platforms such as Facebook live or Microsoft teams. The virtual tours have been a success, and Collin was happy with it being more available to a broader group this year rather than just K-12 students.

Due to COVID-19 all outdoor job fairs this spring were canceled, thankfully this fall they were able to put on a few while following CDC recommendations. Between Alpena, Gaylord and Grayling they had roughly 100 job seekers attend and 35-40 employers.

The Career Pathways Project is an initiative that they are partnering with Region 7b on to work with the employers and education providers to better illustrate what a career pathway looks like in Region 3.

IX. MICHIGAN WORKS! ASSOCIATION BOARD REORGANIZATION

Marisue let us know that the MWA board is changing to a 32 person board, it will consist of the 16 directors from the different agencies and 16 nominees. The reason for this change is to have a better representation of the state and all of the districts. They will be redoing the bylaws, etc. She will also be bringing a nomination for the Michigan works! Association board in December.

X. FRONTLINE STAFF: CAREER ADVISOR

Nikki reported that the Career Advisors are doing things differently this year, like everyone else they are doing more things virtual and it is working out well for them. The busiest program they are seeing right now is WIOA with Adult and Dislocated workers in the Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties. Not quite as busy with Path clients. WIOA participants have the option to meet virtually via Zoom or Webex, if they are unable to meet that way they have the option to call, email or scan any paperwork that may be needed. The majority of clients are seeking help with truck driver training. There's been a lot of interest in nursing and phlebotomy also. Their main focus is short term programs, but if they are in a longer term program they are able to help them in the last two years.

XI. COVID-19

Michigan Supreme Court ruled that the Governor did not have executive powers to mandate all of her rulings, Marisue informed us that because the health department recommends everyone to continue following these rules that Michigan Works! staff will do just that. The office will remain open for business but not open to the public. They are able to have appointments if there are no other options, but it is very limited at this time. Michigan Works! staff have been out of the office since March 17th and will continue to do so. Marisue stated now that staff have proved to be able to work from home efficiently, some staff will continue to work from home even after COVID-19. The staff has been busy helping with the unemployment assistance, as well as their normal duties.

Brooke Sprenger let the board know that she is having trouble finding workers, even while giving

continuous wage increases.

Eileen commented that she is finding that the wage is not the issue, but that more people just want to stay home at this time.

XII. GROUP DISCUSSION

No group discussion.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

XV. ROUND TABLE

No round table.

XVI. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 12:20 was made by Eileen Tussey and seconded by Deborah Larson. Voted: All Ayes

Next WDB/RPI meeting:

Monday, December 7, 2020 @ 11:00 a.m.

Location-TBD