

Workforce Development Board (WDB)

Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI)

Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2021

10:30 a.m.

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 10:40 a.m.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **INTRODUCTIONS**

WDB MEMBERS PRESENT

Sheryl Coyne
Todd Miner
Diane Rekowski
Frances Ommani- Alternate
Jason Reed
Julie Waldron
Eileen Tussey
Brian Klele
Linda Damer

WDB MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathleen Fox
Susan Sanderson
Ashley Troumbly
Brooke Sprenger
Jeff Hutchinson
Erika Comerford
Keri Sheer
Bruce Milligan
Jackie Krawczak

STAFF PRESENT

Ashley Udell, Business & Youth Solutions Manager
Angie Asam, Special Initiatives Manager
Alicia Wallace, Marketing & Communications Manager
Tricia Selke, Quality Assurance Specialist
Melissa McDonnell, BSP

RPI MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Wolin
Laura Percival
Natalie Davis
Diane Rekowski
Tom Stephenson
Sara McCauley
Audra Leininger

IV. WDB ACTION ITEMS: CONSENT AGENDA

- May 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- July 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Local Policy: Time-Limited Work-Based Learning Activities
- Local Policy: Michigan Learning & Education Advancement Program (MiLEAP)
- Local Policy: Michigan Rural Enhanced Access to Careers in Healthcare (MiREACH)
- Local Policy: Self-Sufficiency
- Local Policy: Service Delivery – Adult and Dislocated Worker
- Local Policy: Barrier Removal Employment Success
- Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) Change in Membership

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as listed made by Jason Reed and seconded by Frances Ommani. Voted: All Ayes

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Marisue is at Cooper Standard in Fairview meeting the Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

VI. RPI UPDATE

Tom Stephenson, Broadband Solutions Manager, Connected Nation- presented a power point on the planning and collaboration of MEDC and Connect Michigan.

Audra Leininger- updated the boards of the progress of the Talent Hub and projected the launch to take place around the holidays.

VII. CAREER & EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (CEAC) UPDATE

Joyce McCoy was absent. There was not an update given.

VIII. YOUTH UPDATE

The Youth Career Advisors are collaborating with the Business Solution Professionals working with area students, setting up talent tours, mock interviews, and etc. They were able to hold Talent Tours at six different businesses with four different schools. Other manufacturers have elected to reevaluate this option in the spring when COVID-19 restrictions have lessened. Union representatives from IBEW, Sheet Metal Workers, and Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters visited the Grayling High School and gave a presentation to the high school students. Also working with two different schools on potential apprenticeship events in the coming months.

IX. BUSINESS SOLUTIONS UPDATE

The Business Solutions Professionals (BSP) held two in person and two drop off job fairs. The in person fairs were located in Kalkaska (30 employers and 42 job seekers) and Grayling (16 employers and 24 job seekers). The two

drop off were at Alpena (9 job seekers) and Gaylord (1 job seeker). Apprenticeship interest is increasing and we have recently hired our lead BSP, Jennifer Coughlin, as the Apprenticeship Specialist (AS). She will be collaborating with the YCA's to hold events at local schools to expose the youth to different occupations and apprenticeship opportunities. The Going Pro Talent Fund deadline is Thursday, October 28 at 5:00. There has not been as much interest this year compared to last year but it seems that other Michigan Works are experiencing the same.

X. SPECIAL INITIATIVES UPDATE

Michigan Learning and Education Advancement Program (MiLEAP) – this grant is good from July 2021-June 2023 to assist job seekers transition from short-term education and training to high-skill, high-wage employment and career pathways. We are partnered with Alpena Community College (ACC) and North Central Michigan College (NCMC) and target individuals who have a high school diploma or equivalency and are either dislocated, unemployed, under-employed, COVID-19 essential workers, living in a distressed total community, or are economically disadvantaged. We have recently hired two training navigators who will be starting next month. One will be located at ACC and the other one at NCMC.

Michigan Rural Enhanced Access to Careers in Healthcare (MiREACH) – this grant is good from February 2021 – January 2025 to provide opportunities for individuals across the region to receive training for careers in healthcare and also for employers to develop healthcare talent pipeline strategies. We are collaborating with Northwest Michigan Works! and Michigan Works! Region 7B and targets all individuals who are 17 years of age or older living in the area and interested in direct care positions.

Barrier Removal Employment Success (BRES) – this program aids in providing support service money to help participants gain or retain employment. This funding can be used for transportation, child care, utility/rent assistance, car repairs, insurance, clothing, driver's license obtainment fee, and much more.

Opioid – We have hired our first life coach to be placed at Catholic Human Services in Gaylord. This grant focuses on anyone affected by the opioid crisis, providing wrap around support. The main focus is on dislocated workers.

XI. MICAREERQUEST

Alicia Wallace, Marketing Manager, provided an update on the 2022 MiCareerQuest Northeast event, scheduled for May 24, 2022 at the Industrial Arts Institute. At this time schools and potential exhibitors have been notified to "Save the Date", the use of the Industrial Arts Institute has been confirmed, and Alicia will begin updating more materials and reaching out to 2019 exhibitors over the next few weeks.

XII. FRONTLINE STAFF

Melissa McDonnell, Business Solutions Professional (BSP)- "my #1 thing is being available and out tin the community, networking. If I am not out communicating with businesses then I am not doing my job. I should never let a moment with a business go to waste."

XIII. GROUP DISCUSSION

None

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

None

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XVI. ROUND TABLE

Laura Percival – Discussed the Marshall Plan and how it was initially a three year grant but now is available until the money is spent.

Richard Wolin- Discussed Industry 4.0

XVII. ADJOURN- 11:45 a.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Diane Rekowski and supported by Jason Reed. Voted: All Ayes.

Next meeting scheduled for December 6, 2021 @ 11:00 a.m.. Location to be determined.