

**Workforce Development Board (WDB)**

**Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI)**

**Virtual Meeting Minutes**

**May 26, 2020**

**10:30 a.m.**

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 10:30 a.m.

II. **INTRODUCTIONS**

**WDB MEMBERS PRESENT**

Eric Bachmann

Erika Comerford

Sheryl Coyne

Jackie Krawczak (Alternate)

Dana McGrew

Diane Rekowski (Alternate)

Jessica Mika

Kathleen Fox

Alan Mabarak

Keri Sheer

Eileen Tussey

Brooke Sprenger

Julie Waldron

Steve Fosgard (Alternate)

Jessica Mika

Brian Klele

Deborah Larson

**WDB MEMBERS ABSENT**

John Diamond

Deb Karr

Bill Keen

Jason Reed

Steve Schnell

**STAFF PRESENT**

Tricia Selke, Quality Assurance Specialist

Collin Hoffmeyer, Business Solutions Manager

Ned Heath, Youth Program Manager

Marisue Moreau, Director

**RPI**

Diane Rekowski

Audra Leininger

Janie McNabb

Doug Baum

Tom Stephenson

Sara McCauley

Mark Miller

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

- February 26, 2020 meeting minutes
- One-Stop Operator Contract Review & Renewal
- Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) Applications & WDB Review Forms
- PATH- Employment-Related Supportive Services Plan Narrative
- PATH - Statewide High School Completion or Equivalency (HSC/HSE) Pilot Plan Narrative
- Local Policy: Service Delivery – Adult & Dislocated Worker
- Local Policy: Growth Industries and Demand Occupations 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**

Audra updated the boards on the talent hub website. Due to miscommunication in the beginning stages of the development it still has not been launched. They are currently working on some changes to better meet the needs of people in the region by creating an outdoor hub to attract a wider audience. Everything is on track now and it should be launched in the near future.

Diane Rekowski and Sara McCauley informed the boards about the EDA Cares Act Recovery Assistance grant that is being offered to provide a wide variety of financial assistance to communities and regions to help respond and recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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

Section 61(b), the region will receive funding of 1.4 million for CTE programs for students in dual enrollment or Early Middle College, who attend schools at Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, COOR ISD, Gaylord, Iosco RESA, and Whittemore-Prescott.

Ned discussed that we had additional funds for Summer Work Experience to allow youth and young adults to gain basic employment skills. Explained to the group that this funding allows us to put additional youth to work for organizations with our funds and all they have to contribute is the time to train them in the positions they are having them work. Kathleen Fox from Kirtland Community College as well as Jackie Krawczak from Innova-Tech Solutions Corp. were both interested in this program and Ned will be following up with them to provide more information about it.

### VI. **MiCAREERQUEST UPDATE**

Ned stated that all board members should have received an email that the event has been canceled for 2020 and nearly all of the sponsors have agreed to roll over their sponsorship to be used for the 2021 event.

### VII. **BUSINESS SOLUTIONS UPDATE**

Virtual business engagement has become the new normal for the business solutions team due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The team is becoming more and more comfortable with this form of engagement and hosted their first virtual talent tour with Springs Window Fashions. There are other tours scheduled for next week along with the continuation of plans for virtual job fairs and career expos. The business

solutions and youth teams have also been working together to provide the youth program with the same virtual engagement along with more work experience opportunities.

Collin discussed the Work Share program that is offered through the Unemployment Insurance Agency. Through the UIA workshare program, workers may still retain eligibility to receive federal assistance pay through the CARES act, while working at a reduced rate for their employer, in addition to receiving partial UIA pay. One of the common issue that employers are reporting is that the employees don't want to come back to work because they are making more on unemployment. This program can help with this by allowing employers to bring back their current workforce from unemployment with reduced hours. Employers are also given the flexibility to choose which employees can be part of the plan.

Kathleen Fox from KCC posed questions regarding current and new training needs development as a result of COVID-19. Hoffmeyer discussed implementing employer sector meetings throughout the summer to gather industry perspective on current training needs.

**VIII. RECOGNITION OF FRONTLINE STAFF**

The offices are currently closed to the public but they are still busy with phone calls, virtual meetings with staff, participants, and businesses, and day to day workflow. Some of our staff have also been trained to assist UIA with phone calls. Six of them have been given soft tokens which allows access to the unemployment system but with limited capabilities. Everyone has done a great job working from home. Michigan Works! NC is known as the place to call to talk to a "real person". The phone calls range from callers being appreciative to frustrated. At the end of the day, Marisue is very proud of her staff for handling this transition with ease. We are currently working on transition phases for when the offices reopen and will keep the board updated on the progress.

**IX. COVID-19**

Members of the board discussed challenges their particular businesses are facing and shared resources that are beneficial.

**X. GROUP DISCUSSION**

No group discussion.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business.

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

**XIII. ROUND TABLE**

No round table.

**XIV. ADJOURN**

**Motion to adjourn was made by Eileen Tussey and supported by Erika Comerford. All voting Aye.  
Motion carried.**