

**Workforce Development Board (WDB)
Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI)
Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Otsego County Library, Gaylord**

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 10:15 a.m.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **INTRODUCTIONS**

WDB MEMBERS PRESENT

Sheryl Coyne
Todd Miner
Diane Rekowski
Brian Klele
Linda Damer
Brooke Sprenger
Jackie Krawczak
Whittney Dettmer (Alternate)
Jeff Hutchison
Deb Larson
Jason Campbell
Katrina Burtwell (Pending Administrative Board Approval)

WDB MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathleen Fox
Ashley Troumbly
Keri Sheer
Bruce Milligan
Eileen Tussey

STAFF PRESENT

Marisue Moreau, Director
Ashley Udell, Business & Youth Solutions Manager
Alicia Wallace, Marketing & Communications Manager
Tricia Selke, Quality Assurance Specialist
Wendy Kitchen, MiLEAP Navigator

RPI MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Rekowski
Marisue Moreau

GUESTS PRESENT

Jeff Montgomery
Kevin Glines

IV. WDB ELECTIONS

a. Election of Chair

The current Chair is Sheryl Coyne

Are there any Nominations for Chair?

Brian Klele nominated *Sheryl Coyne* with support from Brooke Sprenger.

Are there any other Nominations for Chair?

No

Are there any other Nominations for Chair?

No

Chair nominations are now closed.

Motion to approve Sheryl Coyne as Chair was made by Brian Klele and supported by Brooke Sprenger. All voting Aye. Motion carried.

b. Election of Vice-Chair

The current vice-chair is Eileen Tussey

Are there any nominations for Vice-Chair?

Sheryl Coyne nominated *Eileen Tussey* with support from Linda Damer.

Are there any other nominations for Vice-Chair?

No

Are there any other nominations for Vice-Chair?

No

Vice-Chair nominations are now closed.

Motion to approve Eileen Tussey as Vice-Chair was made by Sheryl Coyne and supported by Linda Damer. All voting Aye. Motion carried.

c. Election of two additional WDB Members from the private sector for the Executive Committee

The current positions are held by Brooke Sprenger and Jackie Krawczak

Are there any nominations for the Executive Committee?

Sheryl Coyne nominated Jackie Krawczak and Linda Damer with support from Brian Klele.

Are there any other nominations for the Executive Committee?

No

Are there any other nominations for the Executive Committee?

No

Motion to approve Jackie Krawczak and Linda Damer to the Executive Committee was made by Sheryl Coyne and supported by Brian Klele. All voting Aye. Motion carried.

Executive Committee consists of *Sheryl Coyne, Eileen Tussey, Jackie Krawczak, and Linda Damer.*

V. WDB ACTION ITEM: CONSENT AGENDA

- December 15, 2021 meeting minutes
- Career & Educational Advisory Council Nominations
- PATH Transitional Support Services Plan
- LOCAL PATH Transitional Support Services Policy
- LOCAL Supportive Services Policy
- LOCAL Nepotism Conflict of Interest Policy
- LOCAL Grievance & Complaint Policy
- LOCAL Barrier Removal Employment Success (BRES) Policy
- LOCAL WIOA Stipend Policy
- LOCAL Michigan Learning & Education Advancement Program (MiLEAP)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as listed made by Brooke Sprenger and seconded by Jackie Krawczak. Voted: All Ayes

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Marisue discussed the proposed rule issued by the U.S. Department of Labor that, if finalized, would require states to use State merit staff to provide Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Services. Currently we are one of the states that operates with a different staffing model and this change would be devastating for our offices by possibly making the resource rooms nonexistent. The Association is in the process of fighting this proposed rule. Tricia will send out an email including steps you can take to help.

VII. RPI UPDATE

Diane briefly discussed the progress of the Talent Hub.

VIII. CAREER & EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (CEAC) UPDATE

Joyce McCoy updated the board on things that are happening in the CEAC.

Regional Perkins Assessment Update-

This assessment is designed to collect information about Perkins implementation. It is divided into sections ranging from student performance to progress toward improving equity and access and is designed to be included with the application for funds. Joyce discussed that some of the local concerns are the lower math scores in CTE programs, diversity in the student body and the struggle to fill the teaching positions.

SME Prime Schools-

Prime is the acronym for Partnership Response in Manufacturing Education. SME PRIME was designed to help build cost-effective manufacturing/engineering programs in high schools. If the school is chosen to receive the grant it will be provided equipment, curriculum, professional development, scholarships and STEM-focused extra-curricular activities to students and teachers. Three schools from our region applied for this grant, Alpena,

Cheboygan and Alcona, and only two were approved, Alpena and Cheboygan. Joyce went onto explain what is happening in Alpena with these grant dollars.

Perkins Pathway Grants-

This is a grant opportunity to help fund secondary and post-secondary partnerships to develop programs of study that are aligned with the high demand jobs and student interests. The grant recipients work with employers to identify what credentials they seek and try to align those with CTE programs that are offered. The whole process has recently been revised and restructured in a different way.

IX. YOUTH UPDATE

- Took youth from our area to Lansing for Legislative Days in early March. This is in conjunction with JMG. The students had the opportunity to meet with representatives and senators in our area. Youth Advisors also took the youth on team building exercises.
- With the help of our BSP team, we were able to expose youth to new careers. Chagnon Funeral home, PIE&G and Harmon Logging.
- We were able to take students from our area to visit NCMC and KCC for post-secondary exposure.
- Will be piloting a summer youth work experience program – Career Readiness & Exploration – Jessie will explain further in detail

X. SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Jessie Trumble shared details of Summer Youth Work Program which will focus on career readiness and exploration that will be offered for 4 days for 2.5 hours for a total of 40 hours of instruction with approximately 30 hours of homework. The topics to be covered are Career Development, Job Attainment, Job Survival, Leadership & Self Development, Work Place and Decision Making. This is for students aged 14-24 and will be offered Hybrid. This program will be taught by teams of the Youth Career Advisors. Youth can come to the offices to use computers and technology and this will be offered in other remote locations and on a case by case basis. Students will learn soft and hard skills, develop a professional portfolio and participate in mock interviewing. There will also be guest speakers including Financial Literacy, Employers and Motivational Speakers. The students will have an opportunity to earn a stipend based on attendance and participation and students who successfully complete will be offered an additional 4 to 6 week work experience.

XI. BUSINESS SOLUTIONS UPDATE

- GPTF awards come out in mid-December. 6 companies from our area were awarded: 1 in Cheboygan county, 1 in Alpena, 4 in Otsego.
- 2 ILCs submitted applications to LEO-WD and have been awarded – 1 in Alpena, 1 shared in Grayling and Gaylord.
- Spring job fairs were held in the area (Gaylord, Mackinaw City, Alpena and Grayling)
- Reaching out to community partners and employers to assist those that were affected by the tornado last Friday. Three set up for this week, will set-up others as needed.
- Continuing to work on expanding apprenticeship awareness in our area.

- Northwest has been mentor our Apprenticeship Specialist, Jennifer Coughlin, to help us create awareness and build programs in our area.
- Have seen an increase in interest for apprenticeship in our area. We were able to hold an info session in Indian River, hosted by the chamber. Collaborated with NW and 7b to meet with MDOT to discuss opportunities.
- Cheboygan County Sherriff is working towards finalizing an apprenticeship program. They are looking to start one in the fall and another in the winter.
- Continue to work with Thunder Bay Health Center, they are hoping to start a MA apprenticeship in the future.

XII. SPECIAL INITIATIVES UPDATE

No update.

XIII. FRONTLINE STAFF

MiLEAP Navigator, Wendy Kitchen discussed the MiLEAP Program. This program assists 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. She reminded the board that her job is to recruit the participants and incumbent workers in conjunction with the Youth Career Advisors and Business Service Professionals. The funds received are often braided with the other programs whenever possible and we do have a list of the current short-term offerings at the above mentioned community colleges.

XIV. MICAREERQUEST

Alicia stated that the MiCareerQuest 2022 was a huge success. There were 908 students in attendance from 22 different schools, 65 exhibitors with 147 actual people and 78 volunteers. The initial cost estimates show that the cost for one student to go through the event would be about \$55.

XV. GROUP DISCUSSION

Whitney Dettmer shared a success story of an individual who started in the Adult Education program at Alpena County Jail where she started her HiSET testing. She continued working with Nicole and taking tests while she was at the Sunrise Women’s Rehab Centre. When she left the rehab she continued to study for her Math at the Alpena Michigan Works! and Angie Morgan, a Career Advisor there, tested her in math at the testing center. She passed and graduated and is currently working with Rob Adams, a Youth Career Advisor at Alpena Michigan Works!, and is now enrolled in a local Competency-Evaluated Nursing Assistant (CENA) program. She also continues to work with Nicole in the Community Corrections program through the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG).

XVI. OTHER BUSINESS

Jessica Topp, Planning and Program Manager, shared rapid response orientations being held to help people affected by the tornado that went through Gaylord last Friday.

- 5/25 from 9am-12pm at City Hall
- 5/26 from 9am-12pm at the Sportsplex
- 5/27 from 12-3pm at the County Library

XVII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XVIII. ROUND TABLE

No round table.

XIX. ADJOURN- 11:40 a.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Brian Klele and supported by Brooke Sprenger. Voted: All Ayes.

Next meeting scheduled for July 13, 2022 @ 10:00 a.m., Location: Otsego County Library