



UPward Talent Council Workforce Development Board September 19, 2019

MINUTES

I. Call To Order

Vice Board Chair Tony Retaskie calls the meeting to order at 11:03 A.M. Eastern.

II. Roll Call

Present:

Samantha Cameron, Bay Mills Community College; Dave Goudreau, Northern Wings Repair; Julie Wonders, Iron Mountain-Kingsford Community Schools; Roy Del Valle, Michigan Rehabilitation Services; Joe Esbrook, Hiawatha Log Homes; George Kinsella, EcoMarine; Dave Lord, OSF St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center; Jonathan Mead, UPCAP; Suzanne Pazdernik, Jacquart Fabric Products; Tony Retaskie, UP Construction Council; and Chad Rowe, Aspirius Health Services.

Excused:

Mark Massicotte, L'Anse Manufacturing; Brad Lebouef, Systems Control; Michelle LaJoie, Alger/Marquette Community Action; John Hamm, UPRLF; Dave Anthony, Northern Sun Winery; Travis Cary, IUPATDC7; and Jeff Holt, Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation.

Michigan Works! Staff:

Cherilynn Lampinen, COO, and Tracy Roberts, Office Manager

III. Public Comment

Tim Vallier, Rehab Counselor for Bureau for the Blind (MRS) attended and spoke about what services are provided. He talked about the visually impaired/blind and the vocational services – Michigan Transition Services group is working with youth on barriers. They are looking to place students and/or youth ages 14-26.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda was made by Jonathan Mead and supported by George Kinsella; motion was approved unanimously.

V. Approval of Minutes



A correction to the June 7th, 2019 minutes was needed to reflect that Samantha Cameron was present at the June meeting. Motion to approve the June 7, 2019 minutes with correction was made by Chad Rowe and was supported by Roy Del Valle; motion was approved.

VI. Financial Report

A. Grant Status and Overview.

B. Line Item Budget Report. Cherilynn Lampinen reviewed the financial reports for the month; we are on track for spending of funds for the Fiscal Year. We are on budget also to spend the additional monies given later in the year (July/Aug/Sept). Dave Lord asked about the monitoring that is currently happening and asked if that was done regularly by the state to monitor the fiscal items. Cherilynn advised that yes, there are regular audits throughout the year by the state, and we also have a yearly audit by a 3rd party. Dave commented that it is good to know from a board perspective that there is some of that oversight; Michelle Viau (CFO) always has things really organized for monitoring directors.

VII. Reports

A. Chairperson.

B. CEO. Cherilynn Lampinen Cherilynn gave an overview of events and outreach happening since July – there were over 47 events where Michigan Works! was present. George Kinsella commented that the Governor’s Luncheon was a great time, the food was great, and he commended the staff for doing an excellent job. Dave Goudreau added that the community is starting to recognize that Michigan Works! is not Unemployment, as a result of these events and outreach and that’s a good thing. Tony mentioned that he spoke with a group of prisoners that had taken some trades classes and he thought it would be nice to have Michigan Works! at the table there, to help some of these men as they enter the workforce. **The board members had discussion around hiring of former prisoners.** Julie Wonders asked about which employers work with prisoners - they are under the assumption that there are only 1 or 2 employers in the U.P. that will hire felons. She doesn’t always know what to tell jobseekers, but she does direct them to Michigan Works! She asked about how this works when a former prisoner comes to our AJCs. Cherilynn explained that it depends on a lot of things; but generally, all employers are getting a little better at hiring from the prison population. George Kinsella asks if there are incentives to employ someone out of prison; Roy Del Valle informed that there are tax credits available targeted toward specific populations, such as ex-offenders. He mentioned that they have had pretty good success partnering with the Offender Success program, and they work with them and work with employers and the participants to keep them engaged. He added that employers are looking, but for a skill they come to the table with.



VIII. New Business

A. Action Items – Recommended Motions

i. PY 2019 WIOA DWG Funding Allocation Motion

Motion to approve is made by Joe Esbrook and supported by George Kinsella. Motion passed unanimously.

ii. PY 2019 WIOA CBPD Allocation Motion

Motion to approve is made by Dave Lord and supported by Roy Del Valle. Motion passed.

iii. PY 2019 Wagner-Peyser Employment Services Motion

Motion to approve is made by Roy Del Valle and supported by Suzanne Pazdernik. Motion passed unanimously.

iv. PY 2019 WIOA Allocations Motion

Motion to approve is made by Jon Mead and supported by Roy Del Valle. Motion passed unanimously.

v. PY 2019 Wagner-Peyser Funding for MWSC Operations Motion

Motion to approve is made by Jon Mead and supported by Roy Del Valle. Motion passed unanimously.

B. CEAC Nominations

Motion to approve nominations to the Career Education Advisory Council for Paul Harvey and Karl Thomsen was made by Jon Mead and supported by Joe Esbrook. Motion passed unanimously. Julie Wonders commented on the importance of having representation for Adult Ed – She offered to solicit for nominations from her Adult Ed contacts around the U.P.

C. Updated Workforce Development Board by-laws

There was discussion around the option to attend via phone/video conference. An option to attend via phone/video will be added to the by-laws, however, attendance in person is encouraged. There is also option to attend from one of the service centers and video in. Phone/video options will be provided with each meeting packet going forward. Motion to approve updated Workforce Development Board by-laws was made by Dave Lord and supported by Chad Rowe. Motion passed unanimously.

I. New Business

A. New Workforce Development Board Member

The board was advised about Melanie Bicigo, a new board member joining to replace Rodney Nelson's vacancy.

II. Communications

The group enjoyed discussion on some of the top industry categories and employers (Holiday, Family Dollar, etc). Tony Retaskie thanks the Michigan Works! staff for all their support and efforts for next week's Career Fair. UTC Michigan Works! sponsored the



bags for the children, working in the Marquette AJC with special needs kids to stuff the bags. Students will be coming from all areas of the U.P. for the career fair. There will be about 120 vendors, and 50 stations for the kids to go to. The event is 2 days this year; the afternoon of the first day is open to the public from 2:30-5:30.

IX. Member input – Items for discussion

Board Members provided the following updates:

- Dave Lord - Back Forty Mine project – informed that they had brought in Chantae Lessard to give an update and was thinking about Michigan Works!, and the job requirements that would be involved. The challenge in that area is going to be finding workers for the jobs. He thinks that maybe it would be good to have Chantae come to an upcoming meeting to talk about how to satisfy those job requirements. There could be a need to ramp up by next summer potentially. Tony was asked to testify on behalf of Aquila about the need for long-term jobs – they provide a lot of economic opportunity for our community. He didn't get a chance to testify, so now he will go back in latter part of October to do so again.
- John Mead asked about employment data - how is it broken down; can we get data specific to age, area, etc.? Cherilynn informed that we have a person from the State that can provide us specific data. John asked what are the trends? COO Cherilynn Lampinen advised that in general, only a few counties tracking an increased labor force.
- George Kinsella asks Samantha Cameron – The Fire Fighting school they have that's funded by BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) were talks of funding cuts. They are currently working with the US Forest Service to continue the program for the Wildfire firefighting school, which employs between 20-30 men and women.
- Samantha Cameron – Bay Mills is up in enrollment, especially the bachelor's program; the Construction program is double enrollment from last year
- Bridget Kennedy - Systems Control – quieter year than anticipated this year; Next year (2020) will be a very busy year for them; they have had more turnover in office positions than production recently and it's been a challenge, being competitive with benefits and rewards.

X. Public Comment. None

XI. Adjournment

With no further comments, meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:31. The next meeting will be Nov 8th, and it will not be a joint meeting with the LEO board.