



**Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!
Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2023**

I. Call to Order, Mark Massicotte, Chair

Mark Massicotte called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm ET.

II. Roll Call

Board members present:

Mark Massicotte

Joe Esbrook (virtual)

George Kinsella

Melanie Bicigo

Meagen Morrison

Travis Cary

Dana Lalonde

Samantha Cameron

Roy Del Valle

Note: No quorum present

Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! (UPMW) Staff Present:

Debb Brunell, CEO

Michelle Viau, CFO

Margo Anderson, CHRO

Beau Boden, CTO

Betsy Erkkila, ASM

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the December 7, 2023, agenda, with item 7 being informational and forwarded to the Executive Committee, was made by George Kinsella, supported by Travis Cary, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.



V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

No quorum present. Informational only.

VI. Financial Report

CFO Viau gave an overview of the budget and financials. There was discussion amongst the board members. It was noted that inflation is rising, and allocations are decreasing. Board members discussed ways they could help UPMW like going out into their communities and talking about our beneficial services. The state of the current workforce was discussed. The labor shortage remains a barrier and there may be more challenging times ahead.

VII. Action Items

The following policy issuances were up for board approval:

- Policy Issuance #22-22
- Policy Issuance #23-21
- Policy Issuance #23-22
- Policy Issuance 23-27
- Policy Issuance #23-28

Due to no quorum, the board was unable to vote, and the policy issuances were left as informational.

The following local policy was up for board approval: Equal Opportunity Local Policy. Due to no quorum, the board was unable to vote, and the local policy was left as informational.

The following CEAC member nominations were up for approval from the board:

- Corey Soumis
- Jannah Tumey

Due to no quorum, the board was unable to vote, and the nominations were left as informational.

VIII. Reports

A. Chair

Mark Massicotte thanked all board members and UPMW staff for their hard work in 2023.



B. CEO

CEO Brunell notified the Board of recent political updates including the Wagner-Peyser waiver being extended, the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act, and the Bipartisan WIOA reauthorization bill status. CEO Brunell reported to the Board on the current progress of the state of the 2023 Upper Peninsula (UP) Workforce Report, the upcoming Mind Trekkers events, and the UP-labor market study meetings. She discussed the UPMW strategic plan, gave an update on the Going Pro Talent Fund, and noted the EDO partners that were awarded funding. The current state of the workforce in the UP was discussed at length.

IX. Old Business

A. CEAC

The most recent CEAC meeting went well. It was held at Boss Snowplow and included a facility tour, presentation, and a discussion with local legislators.

B. Michigan Works! Association Board

Mr. George Kinsella noted he would consider being a backup member for Mr. Goudreau.

C. Childcare Taskforce

Ms. Janie McNabb gave an update. Some action plans are in place to use funding to implement pilot projects. ECIC funding is used for getting more people into the childcare profession.

X. New Business

A. Nominations

Nominations for the WDB chair and vice chair positions will take place at the first meeting in 2024.

B. Reduced Funding Roundtable Discussion

The state of current funding was discussed and projections of potential 2024 levels. It will be a point of interest to carefully monitor.

C. UPMW! Data Report

A data report was shared highlighting the impact and importance of the Going Pro Talent Fund. Going Pro awards are trending upwards for UP companies. Each year the Business Services team meets with dozens of businesses across the UP to explore the application process of Going Pro. Many of these companies will apply for funding to hire new staff, utilize registered apprenticeships, and upskill their existing workforce to stay competitive in the global market.



D. WDB Reappointments

Several board terms were up for reappointment. Those members must indicate if they wish to be reappointed. They can notify Ms. Erkkila of their intentions to remain on the board.

XI. Communications

NAWB is approaching on March 23–26 in Washington D.C. It was requested that board members please notify Mr. Massicotte if they would like to attend. The CEAC and LEO meeting schedules were provided to the board.

XII. Member input

Several members updated the group on happenings in their organizations and around the UP. Notable items included an update on Medicaid, a grant through Michigan Rehabilitation Services for students with disabilities, a thank you to UPMW staff for a great year, a grant for the Head Start program and Tribal community, and discussion of the labor shortage and current state of the workforce.

XIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, in Marquette, MI.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm ET.