

MEETING MINUTES
Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! (UPMW)
Local Elected Officials Board (LEO)
August 7, 2024

I. Call to Order, Carl Nykanen, Chair

Mr. Carl Nykanen called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm ET.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Joseph Derocha, Marquette County; Steven Viau, Delta County; Craig Reiter, Schoolcraft County; Carl Nykanen, Ontonagon County; Gretchen Janssen, Houghton County; Gale Eilola, Baraga County; Joe Stevens, Dickinson County; Mike Patrick, Mackinac County; Damon Lieurance, Chippewa County; Randy Eckloff, Keweenaw County.

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the August 7 meeting agenda was made by Commissioner Patrick and seconded by Commissioner Reiter. All in favor. Motion passes.

V. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 8, 2024, was made by Commissioner Eilola and supported by Commissioner Stevens. All in favor. Motion passes.

VI. UPMW Guest Introductions

Two new UPMW directors introduced themselves to the Board. The new director of HR is Deb Sherrill, and the new director of talent services is Jim Messer. The Board welcomed them.

VII. Financial Report

Financial reports were presented and discussed. CFO Viau noted the reports were as expected with no concerns or issues. There were a few questions and comments from the board, including a question about how UPMW is helping the community with childcare needs. CFO Viau also shared a 2023/2024 funding breakdown showing federal vs. state funding. ***A motion to approve the grant status and overview report, the line-item budget, and the voucher review report was made by Commissioner Viau and supported by Commissioner Eckloff. All in favor. Motion passes.***

VIII. New Business

The local board nomination policy was presented and discussed. This policy outlines the process for nominating new members to the Workforce Development Board. The LEO is responsible for approving the nominations to the Workforce Development Board. ***A motion to approve the local board nomination policy was made by Commissioner Lieurance and supported by Commissioner Janssen. All in favor. Motion passes.***

Approval of a new Workforce Development Board member, Mr. Ryan Stern, was presented to the Board for their review and approval. ***A motion to approve the new Board appointment was made by Commissioner Derocha and seconded by Commissioner Reiter. All in favor. motion passes.***

The following state policy issuances were presented to the Board for their review and approval:

1. Policy Issuance # 24-05: Calendar Year 2023 Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) Program.
2. Policy Issuance # 24-16: Michigan Reconnect Targeted Outreach.
3. Policy Issuance #24-17: AY 2024 WIOA Statewide Activities Funding to Support Program Year 2024 Capacity Building and Professional Development for the Period of July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025.
4. Policy Issuance # 24-18: Appropriation Year 2024 WIOA Statewide Activities Funding for Career Exploration and Experience Events.
5. Policy Issuance # 24-19: AY 2024 WIOA Statewide Activities Funding for High Concentrations of WIOA Eligible Youth.
6. Policy Issuance # 24-20: AY 2024 WIOA Statewide Activities Funding Allocations for Program Year 2024 Customer Relationship Management for the Period of July 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025.
7. Policy Issuance # 24-21: AY 2024 Wagner-Peyser Employment Service Allocations.

A motion to approve policy issuance #s 1–7 stated above was made by Commissioner Janssen and supported by Commissioner Patrick. All in favor. Motion passes.

IX. Reports

CEO Report:

CEO Brunell presented her CEO report. Topics included staffing changes, grant funding updates, youth programs, apprenticeships, teacher externships, upcoming events, etc. UPMW recently hired a new director of HR, director of talent services, internally promoted a new business services manager and a new business services specialist. CEO Brunell gave updates on grant funding and statuses. She also highlighted the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates and Young Professionals programs. The Going PRO Talent Fund awards were discussed. Upcoming events include teacher externships, the Statewide Workforce Plan lunch and presentation, the Governor's Luncheon, and the UP Michigan Works! All Staff meeting. CEO Brunell also listed her recent activities. A copy of this report was provided to the Board.

Chair Report:

Chair Nykanen gave some updates on recent happenings in Ontonagon County. He mentioned a recharging station in Berglund, Greenland, and Ontonagon. He discussed area mines and how they are doing. He also mentioned the recent county elections.

X. Communications

Upcoming events were shared. The Glengariff group survey data report was provided to the board for their information.

XI. Member updates

Commissioner Eilola is retiring. October will be his last LEO board meeting. Most of the commissioners commented on the recent elections. One Board member asked what the process is for enrolling someone at UPMW. Another topic discussed was materials management planning. Opioid funding was also discussed.

XII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:13 pm ET was made by Commissioner Viau and supported by Commissioner Patrick. Motion passes. Meeting Adjourned.