

Talent District Career Council

Prosperity Region 8

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2017

Call to order – Committee chair, Kris Jenkins called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA), 1819 E. Milham Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49002.

Members Present:

Kim Bell (KPS Adult Educ)
Tommy Cameron (SJCISD)
Jamie Engel (BACC)
Stacy Horner (SWMC)
Kris Jenkins (CISD)
Jan Karazim (KCC)
Chris Machiniak (Berrien RESA)

Deb Miller (KRESA)
Cheryl Peters (Gen E Institute)
Windy Rea (Job Corps)
Jennifer Searls (BACC-Alternate
for Jamie Engel)
Jim Sertic (PS-Consultant)
Scott Starkweather (VBISD)

Staff Present:

Lily Brewer (Kinexus)
Jakki Bungart-Bibb (MWSW)
Amber Layman (Kinexus)

Kathy Olsen (MWSW)
Melinda Watson (Kinexus/JMG)

Guests Present:

Karen Carlisle (Y.O.U./KRESA)

Lisa Smith (Y.O.U./KRESA)

Members Absent:

Morris Applebey (Labor)
Tom Buszek (KVCC)
Jim Brylowski/Michael Corliss, alternate
(SW Mi Bldg Trades)
Ken Flowers/Larissa Hunt (LMC)
John Fonash (Niles Comm Schools/Adult Educ)
Jerry Johnson (CISD-Adult Educ)

Tracy Labadie (GOCC)
Mike Levi (PS)
Laura McGuire (PS)
Sara Park (LMC)
Chris Randall (PS)
George Saleeby (PS)
Mikki Spagnoli (Lewis/Cass ISD)

Introductions/Announcements - Individuals present introduced themselves and the agency they represented, as well as any announcements they wished to share with the group. One highlight was reported was that the Branch Area Career Center now has a web cam to view the “piglets” being raised in their new barn.

Minutes

Motion made by Deb Miller and supported by Scott Starkweather to approve the TDCC December 8, 2016 meeting minutes with the two corrections listed below. Motion carried.

- On page 1 under Members Present, Deborah Coutes was changed to Deborah Coates.

- On page 2, under Career & Technical Education, B. 61b Early/Middle College Updates, *Law, Public Safety & Security (aka Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security)* was added to the list of in-demand careers and the motion in the December 8, 2016 minutes to approve the 61b Early/Middle College Updates was corrected to read: *Motion by Scott Starkweather and supported by Kim Bell to support the modification of the Early Middle College Strategic Plan to add the following career clusters to the Region 8 list of in-demand careers: Architecture and Construction; Arts, A/V Technology & Communications; Business, Management & Administration; Transportation, Distribution & Logistics; ~~and~~ Human Services; Law, Public Safety & Security (aka Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security). Motion carried.*

Presentation: Regional WIOA Core Partners

Karen Carlisle and Lisa Smith from Youth Opportunities Unlimited, a division of Kalamazoo RESA, provided a PowerPoint presentation that included an overview of the activities of the leadership team for the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Core Partners. They reported the WIOA Title IB partners include the providers for Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker employment and training services; the WIOA Title II partners are the providers of adult education and literacy services; the WIOA Title III partners are the providers for Wagner-Peyser Services; and the WIOA Title IV partners include the providers for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons.

Ms. Carlisle and Ms. Smith reported on the six key elements of Career Pathways. The elements include building cross-agency partnerships; identifying industry sector and engaging employers; designing education and training programs; identifying funding needs and sources; aligning policies and programs; and measuring system change and performance. The leadership team guides the process of developing career pathways systems and the partners on the leadership team create a shared vision, mission, goals, and strategies for state and local/regional Career Pathways systems. The cross-agency partnership will work to align systems and provide education and training options that focus on the skill demands of regional and local economies. Collaboratively, the partners will establish strategies that promote the implementation of Career Pathways systems and programs that ultimately lead to an individual obtaining employment at a family sustaining wage. Successful partnerships between the agencies will make it possible to leverage resources to expand upon the services available to all learners. A one page handout that identified the key steps for the key elements in each of the Career Pathways was distributed at the meeting.

They also reported on local initiatives that the leadership group is working on. The initiatives include asset mapping and identifying service gaps; aligning the assessment process; coordinating referrals between agencies; building a comprehensive Career Pathway system; developing and maintaining a shared database to track dual enrollments; and ensuring new program opportunities are shared between partners.

UPDATES

Regional Prosperity Initiative Update

Deb Miller reported the Region 8 Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) is continuing their work under a Tier I status. Subcommittees were formed for education, infrastructure and community development and subcommittees are meeting to discuss the Regional Prosperity Initiative's goals. Members of the Education Committee supported the encouragement of infrastructure development and connections that would better support education, training and

employment. She reported the movement for the RPIs that are at a Tier II status is towards consolidation of services.

Workforce Development Board Update

Kris Jenkins reported the next Workforce Development Board meeting for Michigan Works! Southwest is tomorrow, February 10, 2017. Agenda topics include the Prisoner Re-entry Program and Apprenticeship Training. She distributed copies of Labor Market Reports generated from Burning Glass Analytics and Real Time Jobs Data that identified the top detailed occupations, skills greatest in demand, and employers with the most job openings in Prosperity Region 8, Michigan Works! Southwest, and each of the four counties in the MW Southwest Area for the period December 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017. She also shared information from the Board's Dashboard Report that identified the top employers, top job categories and top occupations advertised online as well as the education requirements for online advertised jobs. The top employer identified for the month of December 2016 for the Michigan Works! Southwest area was Borgess/Ascension Health; the top job was health practitioners; and the top occupations were Registered Nurses and Truck Drivers.

Amber Layman reported Kinexus is working on sector strategies to engage employers in helping to design Career Pathways. One employer-led pathway they are working to develop is Apprenticeship Training. She reported they are working with employers on a ten-year plan that would include stacked credentials, employment, skills development, and an Associate's degree.

Community College Updates

Jan Karazim reported the student population at *Kellogg Community College (KCC)* is quite diverse. Program development for healthcare is for more short-term, in-demand training that includes credentials and leads to employment. There are multiple funding options for students which includes employer sponsored, dual enrollments, Michigan Works!, and federal financial aid. [New legislation in the U.S. Senate would help students expand Pell Grant eligibility for short-term training.](#) The college requested a letter of support from the Region 8 Regional Prosperity Initiative. The voices of employers will be critical for getting this legislation passed.

Stacy Horner reported *Southwestern Michigan College (SMC)* is growing the Early College Initiative. Tomorrow, February 10, 2017, the college is hosting the "[It's Reality](#)" event where area students will learn about personal financial management. The college is collaborating with Midwest Energy Cooperative and the Greater Niles Community Federal Credit Union for this event. There will be a Career Fair at the college on March 16, 2017 and as of today there are 63 employers registered. The event will focus on employment for students and community members.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) – No report.

Lake Michigan College (LMC) – No report.

Glen Oaks Community College (GOCC) - No report.

Generation E Institute – Cheryl Peters distributed a Save the Date flyer for the Generation E institute’s 12th annual student business showcase that is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2017. The event is for young people who completed the Entrepreneurship Training. Students are offered the opportunity to market their businesses as a “Pop-Up” business at the Showcase. Each student business is provided an individual booth to sell their goods and services to the public. Students can also have business sponsors and the sponsor can display their name and logo on the student table. This year, Sara Moylan, founder of [Shefit and Shark Tank contestant](#) will be the keynote speaker. The full day of the 2017 event will be open to the public. She further reported that the Branch Community Foundation just announced that they will sponsor several students for the 2017 event. Additionally, Generation E Institute just signed a contract to work with youth on the East side of the State.

Secondary School Updates

Jamie Engel reported the new barn at the **Branch Area Career Center (BACC)** holds 65 hogs and they had 47 hogs for the green and white day at MSU. Members in attendance at the TDCC meeting had the opportunity to view the piglets via the Internet and the “piggy web cam.” Jennifer Searls reported she was busy presenting career development information throughout the Branch County area. There has been a resurgence for offering career development early on in a student’s education and she encouraged members to stay connected.

Tommy Cameron reported the **St. Joseph County Intermediate School District (SJCISD)** is adding Computer Programming and a separate class for Networking and Computer Programming. The suggestion to add these programs came from school counselors.

Scott Starkweather reported an email with an attachment was automatically sent from his account to individuals in his address book asking the recipient to review a business plan and that anyone who receives this email should not open it because there was a virus attached to it. He reported the plans for building a Health Center at the **Van Buren Intermediate School District’s (VBISD) Career Center** is still being negotiated with the Health Department. The original cost estimate was high and the plans are being revised to reduce the square footage by 5,000 feet. They are hopeful that the building will be completed by the fall of 2018. It will include programs for Dental Hygienist and Dental Assistant. Scott Starkweather also reported that the VBISD has a Certified Coordinator that works with two Mentors. Together, they provide wrap-around services for students that begin with the student’s orientation at the community college, purchasing books through the college’s bookstore, and holding weekly meetings with students to help them connect to additional resources. He reported they are having good success with this model.

Kris Jenkins reported the Governor’s proposed budget includes \$20 million for Career Technical & Education (CTE) equipment. Last year the amount was \$10 million dollars that resulted in a disbursement of \$18 thousand dollars per county. The **Calhoun Intermediate School District (CISD)** is starting a Robotics class and the cost of one robot is \$56 thousand dollars. The CISD is using their funds to help purchase a robot for this class. For the Career Exploration Day, the CISD borrowed a robot from the Branch Area Career Center (BACC). The CISD is offering their first Early Middle College Program for Welding and their initial goal was to enroll a minimum of six students; however, they ended up with 20 students. An unintended consequence of the Early Middle College programs is that some students are pushing themselves to complete their high school courses early and they are requesting to take more dual enrollment classes so that they can finish in 12 ½ years instead of 13. Kellogg Community College

(KCC) is replacing three technical electives with workplace learning with industry partners and this has been a good change. Next year the CISD will be adding a Graphics class with approximately 20 students and CISD is hoping to add additional classes each year. Adequate funding may be a limitation. Jan Karazim added that employer availability could also be a limitation and cited the healthcare programs that must also have legal agreements in place as an example.

Deb Miller reported the focus for the ***Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA)*** is on grades 6 through 12. There is a resurgence of business and industry involvement and KRESA is working with the business and industry partners on a mission and plan. KRESA has an Early Middle College (EMC) proposal for Law Enforcement. Ms. Miller noted that the Governor's new budget does not include 61b funding; however, KRESA will continue to align and grow EMC programs.

Chris Machiniak reported the ***Berrien Regional Education Service Agency (RESA)*** conducted 89 family interviews for Early Middle College (EMC) and 51 students are enrolled in the first cohort. Berrien RESA is working with Kinexus to start an Apprenticeship Program in the next school year.

In summarizing, the secondary school representatives noted that the current trend is for students to have stackable credentials with two year degrees.

Member/Public Comments

Mindy Watson distributed a packet of information regarding the [Jobs for Michigan Graduates Program \(JMG\)](#). She reported "the JMG is a state based affiliate of the [National Jobs for America's Graduates \("JAG"\)](#) organization, one of the largest and most successful school-to-work systems for at-risk and disadvantaged young people in the United States." The packet of information included the JAG 35th Anniversary Annual Report; the JMG Statewide Performance Final Report; a list of established JMG affiliates in Michigan; Success Stories; Save the Date flyers for Careers in Construction Week (May 1-5, 2017) and the JMG Career Development Conference that will be held on April 20, 2017 in Lansing. She reported they are looking for volunteer judges for the JMG conference. Public speaking and employability skills were a couple of examples of competitions that the students participate in at the event. Lisa Smith reported a JMG program has been operating in Kalamazoo for the past three years and last year the Parchment team won first place in the JMG Bowl at the Conference. Amber Layman reported the Lieutenant Governor was the keynote speaker at the 2016 Conference. Lisa also reported that a new JMG program just started at Battle Creek Central and operates in collaboration with the WIOA Youth program. Mindy Watson reported in some areas, the JMG program may also run in tandem with WIOA out-of-school programs. During Energy Week, JMG partnered with DTE and Consumers Energy for students to explore careers in energy. During the Careers in Construction Week, there will be a huge event in Howell, Michigan at the Operating Engineers Training Center where students can explore multiple careers in skilled trades. Mindy reported that the Governor's proposed budget includes funding to grow this program and there is also some national funding for JMG. JMG outcomes include high school graduation; enrollment in post-secondary education; and public, private or military employment.

Jakki Bungart-Bibb reported that Michigan Works! Southwest partners with Kinexus for the JMG program and Youth Opportunities Unlimited, a division of Kalamazoo RESA is the service provider for JMG in Branch, Calhoun,

Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties. Kinexus is the service provider for Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties and Mindy Watson reported that in March, the youth services under Kinexus will become a stand-alone entity called Youth Solutions.

Mindy Watson also distributed Save the Date bookmarks for the [Southwest Michigan Mini Maker Faire](#) that is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2017 in St. Joseph, Michigan.

Next Meeting

Kris Jenkins reported the next Talent District Career Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 2017 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo RESA and one of the agenda items will be to review and approve the Perkins Plans.

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Olsen, TDCC staff support

Kris Jenkins, Chair TDCC Region 8