**Career Educational Advisory Council (CEAC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 16, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Committee Chair, Tim Staffen, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. at the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49007.

**MW SOUTHWEST CEAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim Berry (SJC ISD/CTE)

James Callahan, alt for James Brylowski

(Labor-MI Building & Construction Trades)

Cindy Goss (KRESA/CTE)

Jerry Johnson (ISD-Calhoun)

Sarah Mansberger (KRESA ISD)

David Maurer (PS-Humphrey Products)

Brian O’Donnell (PS-Hi-Tech Electric)

Dr. Diane Owen-Rogers (MiSTEM)

Andrea Rainer (Huron Pottawatomi)

Dustin Scharer (BACC/CTE)

Tammy Schiller (CISD/CACC) V

Jim Sertic (PS-Sertic Consulting)

Tim Staffen (CISD/CTE)

**STAFF PRESENT**

Roie Lord-Taylor (MWSW)

Kathy Olsen (MWSW)

Shelby Springett (MWSW)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Lisa Bartell (KRESA)

Rey Guzman (LEO-WD) V

Lisa Smith (KRESA)

**MW SOUTHWEST CEAC MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Dennis Baskin (KCC)

Jeff Birkholz (PS-DENSO)

Dr Mark Dunnebeck (KVCC)

LaToy Green (Parent)

Windy Rea (Job Corps)

Ken Willcutt (Labor-Plumbers & Pipefitters

& HVACR Local Union 357

**INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Individuals present introduced themselves and the agency/company they represented.

**MINUTES**

Motion by Brian O’Donnell and supported by Jerry Johnson to approve the March 20, 2023 CEAC meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT (CLNA)**

Tim Staffen reported the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) for Career Technical Education (CTE) is an accreditation process at the secondary level for Intermediate School Districts. It is similar to what industry goes through for ISO 9000. There are core performance indicators in academics, reading, math, and science, and data is reviewed and analyzed. Jim Berry reported staff look at student performance data such as post program placements and special populations. Additional components include labor market information, program implementation, progress toward implementation, training for instructors and paraprofessionals, and progress towards equity for access and special populations. Tim Staffen reported the CLNA process begins with agencies at the operational level. It then moves to the Career Education Planning District (CEPD) level, and then to the regional level. Tim Staffen reported core performance indicators can be reviewed by program and if a program is failing to meet them, then the data can be examined to determine where the weakness is; however, it is important to look at both the numerator and the denominator. Jim Berry reported it is also important to review the labor market information for the immediate future as well as the ten year outlook for all four counties in the Michigan Works! service area. Feedback from various interest groups is sought and encouraged, especially regarding talent shortages, barriers to employment, and retention factors.

Feedback from CEAC members included the following:

* Dependent care and reliable transportation are important.
* The public transportation system is not appropriate for manufacturing.
* Youth are not entering the workforce equipped with skill sets to step into a role. Some of the skills identified include communication, diplomacy, conversation with others, knowing when conversation is appropriate such as knowing what not to say, conflict resolution, and no cell phone usage when on the job.
* Reading, writing and math.
* For lesser skilled labor, students need to at least be at the 7th and 8th grade levels in math and be able to add fractions, multiply, understand decimals, and read gauges, rulers, micrometers, scales, and pressure gauges.
* For skilled labor, trigonometry and geometry are needed.
* Workers need to be able to troubleshoot processes – speeds, feeds, etc. for cutting metal.
* Basic logical reasoning.
* Problem solving.
* Mechanical aptitude.
* Spatial reasoning.
* Timeliness.
* Teamwork.
* Education should provide the basics, businesses can teach the specifics.
* It was also noted that for some youth, their parents do not work, and the youth is the breadwinner for the family.

The educators noted that one challenge for education is the definition of ‘a lot of workers’ and for a single small company, that might be five workers; however, a CTE program could have 120 students, thus the need must exist for multiple employers to justify that career path. A specific concern noted for automotive programs was battery technology and safety.

It was also noted that the issues in high school are universal. Parents continue to push for a college degree, yet there are other opportunities such as getting hired into a job where the company pays for college, and apprenticeship programs where one can learn while they earn. CTE programs have an advantage and can be the ‘carrot’ to introduce youth to a long term career. The message to parents, teachers and employers should be positive and encourage getting the youth ready for the real world.

The educators noted that it is important to consider new and emerging things that students will need to be prepped for which led to a discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI). One member spoke of massive data centers being built in a neighboring state and noted that these physical facilities will house digital data for many companies. Another member noted that AI could be a direct threat for accounting but perhaps not so much for manufacturing. Although robotics allows for more quality products in the manufacturing industry, programmers are still needed to service the robots. A third member noted that construction trades cannot be replaced with robots because robots cannot think on they fly, and craftsmanship is also needed in construction trades. In conclusion, one way to look at AI is to consider it a tool for saving time, such as using AI to turn a three-week assignment into a three-day assignment.

One member also suggested meeting with economic developers who work to bring businesses to the area and learn which companies declined to come to the area. If the decision was based on the available workforce and/or skills, what can be addressed by the schools.

**61b STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**

Tim Staffen reported the current 61b Career Cluster ranking for Prosperity Region 8 East which includes Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties, was included in the agenda packet. Each CEAC in Michigan is required to review and make any necessary changes to their area’s list. A few things to consider while reviewing was discussed. IT is listed as a career cluster; however, IT careers also exist under multiple industries such as healthcare, manufacturing, and hospitality, and some of the IT jobs would be counted under those industries. The Information Technology career cluster would include connections to the utilities grid; and the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics career cluster would include jobs connected to the Electric Vehicle (EV) industry. The updated 61b plan is due to the State by December 1, 2023.

Jim Berry reported there is a State list of eligible 61b career cluster programs. For the updated plan, Directors of Career Educational Planning Districts (CEPD) will need to make regional choices with the assistance of their local CEAC to rank their top five and each CEPD within the State will most likely end up with a different ranking of all eligible programs. If a program is not in the top five from any district within the State, then that program would not be eligible for 61b funding. The current list was reviewed, and members agreed with the ranking; however, since local demand includes more than the top five career clusters listed, it will be important to verify that all local clusters are included on at least one area’s top five list. CTE Directors agreed to review the lists from other areas throughout the State and to meet prior to the Thanksgiving holiday to make any necessary edits to the local list (Form A).

Kathy Olsen reported the Identification of Educational Entities (Form B) includes the list of entities that provide CTE Early Middle College programs and CTE dual enrollment opportunities. The form presented to the CEAC was prefilled with the names of educational entities for Career Education Planning Districts (CEPDs) which includes Branch and Calhoun Counties (CEPD 36), Kalamazoo County (CEPD 35), and St. Joseph County (CEPD 47). Members were asked to submit any changes to her either at today’s meeting or via email following the meeting.

Kathy Olsen reported the Strategy to Inform Students/Parents (Form C) was pre-filled with information from the current plan. She asked members to consider what new strategies should be added, such as how KRESA’s new mobile lab would be promoted to students and parents. Members were asked to submit any changes to her either at today’s meeting or via email following the meeting.

The final 61b plan with edits from today’s meeting, as well as information to add received via email, will be submitted prior to the December 1, 2023 deadline.

**CEAC RECERTIFICATION**

*Draft Membership for 2023-2025* – Kathy Olsen reported a State draft policy was released regarding the recertification of CEAC membership. Members were asked to review the membership list included in the agenda packet and to notify her of any changes in representation. A few changes were noted. The CEAC membership list will be updated to reflect those changes and once an official policy is released, the membership roster will require approval by the Workforce Development Board, prior to submission to the State for the official CEAC member certification.

*Election of Chair and Vice Chair* – Kathy Olsen reported it is time to reelect a CEAC chair and vice chair. The Bylaws do not prohibit the current chair and vice chair from serving another two-year term.

**Motion made by Jim Sertic and supported by Brian O’Donnell to nominate Tim Staffen as CEAC chair and Jim Berry as CEAC Vice-Chair for another two-year term. Motion carried.**

*Draft 2024 CEAC Meeting Calendar* - Kathy Olsen reported the draft meeting calendar for the 2024 calendar year was included in the agenda packet. The proposed dates were March 18, May 13, October 7, and December 2, 2024. There was no change recommended to the meeting time of 1:00-3:00 p.m. All four of the meetings would be held at the Upjohn Institute. There were no objections to the proposed calendar.

**MI STEM NETWORK UPDATE**

No Report.

**BUSINESS UPDATES**

*Michigan Works! Southwest Business Solutions -*  Roie Lord-Taylor reported the closing date for the current *Going PRO Talent Fund (GPTF) grant* application cycle is October 27, 2023 and Michigan Works! staff have been very busy assisting employers with their applications. The next *MiCareerQuest™ Southwest* is scheduled to occur on October 24 and 25, 2023 at the Kalamazoo Expo Center and approximately 4,000 eighth grade students are expected to attend the event. Michigan Works! Southwest hired a new *Apprenticeship Success Coordinator* who began employment today. The Coordinator will be conducting outreach to identify apprenticeship opportunities. Currently, due to staffing issues, there is a backlog at US DOL for creating new apprenticeship programs. The first meeting for the Michigan Works! Southwest *Electric Vehicle (EV) Industry Led Collaborative (ILC)* is scheduled for October 31, 2023. Michigan has funding to support *Information Technology (IT) infrastructure and digital access*. The program is called [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program](https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mihi/funding-opportunities/bead). Michigan has a [five-year action plan](https://www.michigan.gov/leo/-/media/Project/Websites/leo/Documents/MIHI/BEAD/MIHI-BEAD-Five-Year-Plan.pdf?rev=e917202c68cb4bbf8b2437c524d53345&hash=C17537D47EBA25B80E6C32C1EA0CC774) for the BEAD Program.

*Hi-Tech Electric -* Brian O’Donnell reported Hi-Tech Electric will have a booth at the MiCareerQuest™ Southwest and there are opportunities for advanced infrastructure careers.

*Construction Trades* - Jim Callahan reported the construction trades have been represented at every MiCareerQuest™ and will attend this one as well.

*Humphrey Products* - Dave Maurer reported a record number of manufacturers registered for this MiCareerQuest™ event. He also reported the first meeting of the West Michigan Manufacturing Council was held in March. The convenor was formerly Kalamazoo Valley Community College; however, the convenor role is now with Southwest Michigan First.

**EDUCATION UPDATES**

**Secondary Education**

*Calhoun County ISD* – Tim Staffen reported Calhoun ISD, in partnership with the Hospitality Association and Kellogg Community College, is working to create a pipeline for hospitality careers from room service to hotel management. They are working together build the curriculum. Students will be able to gain experience through work-based learning opportunities. There have been a lot of requests from BlueOval regarding the career pathways for the battery plant; however, that project is currently on hold due to the UAW strike. There will be jobs for electricians and pipefitters and many experienced workers may move into those roles, which would then open many entry level positions. The Calhoun ISD is working with Kellogg Community College to train students in construction. Real life exposure to the work will be centered around apprenticeships and work-based learning.

*St. Joseph County ISD* – Jim Berry reported another MiCareerQuest™ event is being planned for St. Joseph County on May 7, 2024. The event will be held in Sturgis, Michigan. A telehandler has been purchased for the Construction Trades career pathway. There is a brand new culinary program and classes meet in Constantine in the morning and at the Sturgis auditorium in the afternoon. Pending approval from the superintendents, plans are to add a less than class size aviation program. [The launch for the new Society for Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Partnership Response in Manufacturing Education (PRIME) program at Three Rivers High School](https://www.sme.org/aboutsme/newsroom/press-releases/2023/three-rivers-high-school-launches-sme-prime-program/) will occur this Friday, October 20, 2023. Legislators are expected to be in attendance. As of last Friday, new welding booths were installed at Constantine High School .

*Branch Area ISD* – Dustin Scharer reported Branch County ISD will be hosting a 9th grade career exploration event this Thursday, October 19, 2023. One district will also be sending 10th grade students. Enrollments for this year at the Branch Area Career Center are 531 students; this is the largest group since the 2017-2018 school year. The enrollments this year represent 50% of juniors and seniors. An architectural program has been added. Construction Trades is moving from being lab-based to site building. Habitat released a lot of their assets to the Rotary and the Rotary donated funding to the school for the construction of a house.

*Kalamazoo RESA* – Cindy Goss reported Computer Science students placed in the top 10 of the Cyber Challenge. The annual Street Rod event in Kalamazoo hosted 100 students at the Street Rod Nationals. Three of the students had the opportunity to pick the Kalamazoo award winner. KRESA has job openings for instructors in culinary arts, manufacturing, construction trades, information technology (IT), and agriscience, The positions are posted on the KRESA website. Sarah Mansberger added that KRESA is seeking applicants who have deep industry experience. The application period is open through October 22, 2023. The start date for the positions will be January 2024. KRESA has a new mobile Discovery Lab that will visit schools, as well as community events. Manufacturing will be the first industry to be featured in the lab; this will be followed by Health Science. In response to a question regarding the cost, KRESA staff reported the approximate cost of the lab was $475,000 and it was made possible through philanthropic support.

**Post-Secondary Education**

*Glen Oaks Community College* – No report.

*Kalamazoo Valley Community College* – No report.

*Kellogg Community College* – No report.

**Adult Education**

Jerry Johnson reported there has been a significant increase in Section 107 appropriations. Of the $10 million, approximately $3 million is designated for the local region. Locally, enrollments are strong. A separate new appropriation of approximately $15 million is planned for Section 107(a) funding that will be for innovative programs; however, an RFP has not yet been released. It is expected that the funding will be for regional providers. Plans are to apply as a region and staff are currently seeking new and innovative ideas for adult learners. The current adult education funding cycle is near its end, and at the beginning of 2024 a new RFP for the next 3-year cycle will be released and reviewed. Eligible providers are local school districts and Intermediate School Districts. He reported that he is already aware that Van Buren ISD plans to apply for funding. The RFP is expected to be announced in January and there will be a February due date. Awardees will be announced in late March or early April.

**MI Job Corps**

No report.

**CEAC METRICS**

Kathy Olsen reported CEAC members should continue to support the CEAC metrics listed on the reverse side of each person’s tent card which are to establish apprenticeships for adults and youth; establish or participate in career pathway and exploration events; and to promote and positively impact the Governor’s post-secondary credential attainment goal of 60% by 2030.

**OTHER UPDATES - EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rey Guzman reported $4.6 million in grant awards will help Michigan employer-led collaboratives (ELCs) address critical talent gaps. Michigan Works! Southwest received $182,280 and was one of thirteen organizations awarded these funds. The State continues to explore employer needs and hopes to announce the availability of more funding in the spring for release in the summer. He congratulated Michigan Works! Southwest and the region for the great work being done.

Lisa Smith reported Kalamazoo RESA is seeking youth ages 16-24 for short-term training opportunities in the CareerNOW Program that includes four weeks of employability skills. Barriers are also addressed prior to employment and through the retention phase. KRESA also offers apprenticeship opportunities in healthcare, skilled trades, and early childhood. There is support for in and out of school youth, as well as for the employers.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**UPCOMING EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No events were added to what was already reported during the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**NEXT CEAC MEETING**

The next CEAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2023, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo RESA, 1819 E. Milham Road, Portage, Michigan 49002. Members are encouraged to attend in-person, however, in case a member or CEAC partner’s situation warrants virtual attendance, a virtual link will also be made available.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kathy Olsen, CEAC staff support Tim Staffen, Chair CEAC