

Talent District Career Council Prosperity Region 8

Meeting Minutes February 8, 2018 – corrected

CALL TO ORDER – Committee chair, Kris Jenkins, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo RESA, 1819 E. Milham Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kim Bell (KPS)
Deb Coats (KVCC)
Jamie Engel (Branch ISD)
Kris Jenkins (CISD)
Jerry Johnson (CISD-Adult Educ)
Jan Karazim (KCC)
Chris Machiniak (Berrien RESA)

Laura McGuire (PS)
Deb Miller (KRESA)
Chris Randall (PS)
Windy Rea (Job Corps)
James Sertic (PS)
Robert Smith (VSIDS)
Stacy Horner Young (SWMC)

STAFF PRESENT

Jake Gustafson (Kinexus)
Amy Meyers (MWSW)

Kathy Olsen (MWSW)
Sarah Pohl (MWSW)

OTHERS PRESENT

Denny Hunt (CISD)

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Morris Applebey (Labor)
Paul Aivars (GOCC, alt for Irene Elksnis Geisler)
James Brylowski (Labor)
Thomas Cameron (SJCISD)
Mike Corliss (Labor, alt for James Brylowski)
Ken Flowers (LMC-Post Secondary)
John Fonash (Niles Comm Schools-Adult Education)
Irene Elksnis Geisler (GOCC)

Richard Klemm (Niles Comm Schools-Adult Educ,
alt for John Fonash)
Mike Levi
Cheryl Peters (Youth Entrepreneurship)
George Saleeby (PS)
Jennifer Searles (Branch ISD, alt for Jamie Engel)
Mikki Spagnoli (Lewis/Cass ISD)

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Individuals present introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

MINUTES

Motion made by Deb Miller and supported by James Sertic to approve the TDCC September 21, 2017 corrected meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Laura McGuire and support by Stacy Young to approve the TDCC December 14, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

CAREER & EDUCATIONAL ADVOSORY COUNCIL WEBINAR

Talent District Career Council (TDCC) members participated in a webinar outlining the transition from a Regional TDCC to the Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) that will become effective on April 1, 2018. The webinar opened with brief messages from Wanda Stokes, Director of the Talent Investment Agency and Roger Curtis, Director of Talent & Economic Development. The webinar covered the vision and objectives of local CEACs, as well as the composition requirements. TDCC members were informed that the current regional TDCC would be dividing into two separate CEACs with membership for each based on the two Michigan Works! areas located within the region. There were some questions regarding how this change will affect the regional fiscal agent for 61b, the Regional 61b Strategic Plan, and the regional fiscal agent for Adult Education. Answers were not available at the meeting and members requested further information. The new CEAC membership requirements does not include representation from the Adult Education sector; however, members who would be transferring to the Michigan Works! Southwest CEAC agreed that they would prefer that representation from Adult Education continue.

Kris Jenkins reported the dates for the Michigan Works! Southwest CEAC meetings for 2018 were scheduled for April 12, September 20 and November 8. The time of the meetings still needs to be confirmed. They will begin no earlier than 1:00 p.m. and end no later than 3:30 p.m. Jake Gustafson reported Kinexus will also schedule three meetings for 2018 and their CEAC members would be informed of the dates once they were selected.

TDCC members were reminded that the next and last TDCC meeting will be on March 28, 2018. An important action item will be to review and approve the Secondary Perkins Plans.

The PowerPoint presentation from today's webinar will be shared with TDCC members once it became available.

UPDATES

Regional Prosperity Initiative

Deb Miller updated TDCC members on the survey from the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) that was recently sent out to community partners, including members of the TDCC. She reported the survey would be resent with hopes of receiving more diverse feedback from members of the community, especially those in the counties of Berrien, Branch, Cass and St. Joseph. Deb also reported Vince Carahaly was elected as the new chair for the seven-county Southcentral Michigan Planning Council. Kathy Olsen offered to resend this survey to TDCC members following the meeting with a request for it to be shared widely.

Workforce Development Board Update

Workforce Development Board for Michigan Works! Southwest - Kris Jenkins reported the Workforce Development Board for Michigan Works! Southwest is scheduled to meet tomorrow, February 9, 2018; however, due to weather concerns, the meeting may be rescheduled.

Workforce Development Board for Kinexus – Jake Gustafson reported the Kinexus Workforce Development Board was working on the transition of TDCC to CEAC. Mr. Gustafson also reported the Board was working on their new three to five-year strategic plan which includes a focus on the Tri-County Manufacturing Coalition and increasing registered apprenticeships through a collaboration with Lake Michigan College (LMC) and Southwestern Michigan College (SMC).

Adult Education Update

Jerry Johnson referred TDCC members to the Section 107 Regional Project Narrative for Adult Education and the Statewide Section 107 Allocation Criteria that were included in the agenda packet. He reported the proposed edits that were highlighted in both documents were finalized. He thanked Kathy Olsen for sending out the Request for Proposal (RFP) information for Adult Education funding that is available through the State School Aid Act Section 107 grant. Mr. Johnson announced that the Section 107 RFPs that were set by the Adult Education Transition Workgroup are due on March 16, 2018. He also reported the next regional Adult Education provider meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2018. The selected providers for Adult Education will be announced by March 19, 2018. Individual submission to MEGS will take place around the end of April to mid-May for programs that begin July 1, 2018. He reported local school districts and intermediate school districts are eligible providers and other entities can partner with them to apply.

Community College Updates

Kellogg Community College (KCC) – Jan Karazim reported Kellogg Community College (KCC) currently has several new certificate and degree programs at the approval level including: Neuro-diagnostics, Medical Assistant and Medical Billing. She also reported KCC is purchasing mobile equipment that can be used for some of the training. With this transition they can take mobile technology to the East side of Calhoun County where transportation is a barrier for many students. The priority for the FY18-19 Perkins funding will be a focus on competency-based, in-demand training. She reported there is a new superintendent at Lakeview High School with experience starting career pathways in the 9th grade for health careers.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) – ~~Ms.~~ Dr. Deb Coates reported that Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) has multiple programs at different states of approval, one program being a Healthcare AAS degree with common core components and another an AAS degree in Mechatronics. She also reported KVCC is revamping their EMT and welding programs. The MAT²® Training for CNC has one more class period and there is some discussion regarding starting a cohort for Mechatronics. ~~Ms.~~ Dr. Coates reported KVCC will again be offering career-based summer camps for middle school students. These summer programs have grown from one program in year one, to three programs in year two, and six programs this year. The Early Middle College (EMC) event held this past Tuesday at the Air Zoo drew 800 people.

Southwestern Michigan College (SMC) – Stacy Young reported Southwestern Michigan College is currently in the middle of a \$9.6 million construction project for a new nursing building that will include simulation labs. SMC is also working with Ferris State University on a program for Elementary Education as well as eight different degree pathways with Indiana University of South Bend (IUSB). She reported IUSB came to SMC due to its proximity to the student population they were serving. She further reported the faculty at SMC recently voted to unionize.

Lake Michigan College (LMC) – No report.

Glen Oaks Community College (GOCC) – No report.

Employer Updates

TDCC members discussed the low unemployment rate and the effect it is having on wages. Jim Sertic reported that with the area's unemployment rate being low, there has been an increased effort to target the under-employed. He shared his belief that most open positions in the area were technical in nature and that he was impressed with the trainings being offered to fill that gap. Mr. Sertic also reported wages are beginning to show a slight increase locally, which is good;

however, on a national scale, many companies are giving one-time bonuses instead of wage increases. Regarding the event held at the Air Zoo this past Tuesday, from a business perspective, he would encourage more marketing for future events. He reported the MiCareerQuest event held in November 2017 was huge undertaking and it provided career exploration for many students.

Laura McGuire reported at DENSO North America, 42% of employees are eligible to retire today. In all job title areas, especially in skilled trades, they are looking at a 7% growth. DENSO has been targeting individuals enrolled in Early Middle College (EMC) with the idea of developing entry-level staff internally to move them up the career ladder. She shared information about a School-to-Work apprenticeship in Tennessee and DENSO is discussing how to implement this in Calhoun County. She gave an example of an individual starting as an entry-level production worker who could move into various positions and eventually become a maintenance journeyman. In addition to the apprenticeship model, other ideas to grow the workforce included factory tours and portable training units to entice high school students and their families. Jan Karazim stated that the new mobile equipment that Kellogg Community College is purchasing will be helpful for these efforts. Ms. McGuire reported DENSO is interested in exploring other suggestions. Deb Miller reported the high schools need teachers; another member suggested that perhaps newly retired individuals who have experience working in industry would be interested in teaching.

Many TDCC members agreed that a key to recruiting new talent into manufacturing was to target parents to help dispel the negative image technical and skilled trades career paths currently have. One suggestion was to invite alumni to speak to teachers, school boards, parent-teacher organizations, principals, superintendents, and other stakeholders. Members agreed it is equally important to promote all jobs in the manufacturing industry which includes engineering and front-office jobs such as purchasing, business planning, etc. and to promote if a company pays for training.

Chris Randall reported with the low unemployment rate, the pressure is increasing on business to raise wages.

Secondary School Updates

Berrien RESA – Chris Machiniak reported Berrien RESA received 86 applicants for the 5th year Early Middle College, their target was 60. They will be interviewing all 86 EMC applicants. Berrien RESA partners with Southwestern Michigan College (SMC) and currently there are more than 100 students already enrolled. Several small programs benefitted from the 61c funding including the addition of a welding lab with 20 new stations. With community backing, Berrien RESA hopes to start-up a CNA class this year and another next year at SMC and Lake Michigan College (LMC). LMC will be hosting a Hospitality Job Fair on April 9 at the Benton Harbor campus and on April 11 at the Niles campus. The culinary program will feature a Chop Challenge in the middle of the Job Fair with teams made up of four individuals. The event is open for regional participation.

Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD) – Robert Smith reported that for Career & Technical Education (CTE) Awareness Month, Van Buren ISD has been sharing “Fun Facts” about CTE as part of their daily school announcements. To increase their followers on social media, VBISD recently started a “Social Media Challenge” where students become eligible to win a prize through the likes and shares on the Van Buren ISD page. Van Buren ISD is focusing more on Early/Middle College. They currently have three cohorts of 22 students each and wish to expand to cohorts of 35.

Calhoun Intermediate School District (ISD) – Kris Jenkins reported Calhoun Intermediate School District (CISD) received a grant in the amount of \$200,000 and it was used to purchase new welding equipment. They are considering doubling the

size of their welding lab with other funding. CISD wishes to double IT enrollments; they currently have a Computer Programming class and they will be adding a Computer Networking class. In March CISD will be posting a position for the Teacher in Education Academy.

Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) - Deb Miller reported Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) opened more Computer Science Programs last year. KRESA recently participated in Innovation Day at Western Michigan University (WMU) and a KRESA student won first place. KRESA is currently holding focus groups for secondary programs to gather feedback on the model they have been using for thirty-five years. Some of the newer buildings do not have labs; some of the older buildings cannot handle the increased need for electric power usage; and it is costly to revamp the current labs. KRESA received a \$200,000 competitive 61c grant and the majority of the funds were used for updates to the automotive facilities and equipment, which had not been done in thirty-five years. The remaining funds from this grant are being used for upgrades to the manufacturing and construction trades programs.

Branch Area Career Center (BACC) – Jamie Engel reported the Branch Area Career Center (BACC) is working on a collaboration with Kellogg Community College (KCC) for Early/Middle College. He also reported that the KCC Grahle Center and high school counselors are having difficulty keeping up with the tracking students and an EMC coordinator will help to take the burden off the local district.

St. Joseph County ISD – No Report

Lewis/Cass ISD – No report.

Member / Public Comments and Announcements

Jerry Johnson reported the Perkins Reauthorization has bi-partisan support. TDCC members also commented on federal budget negotiations, immigration reform, and counselor capacity. They recognized the disparity between urban and rural areas as well as areas without career centers.

The Governor's proposed increase in per pupil funding, especially as it applies to those enrolled in CTE courses was also discussed. There was concern that some students may be pushed into pathways they are not interested in. Members agreed that every student should have an opportunity to explore careers; however, it will be important to ensure appropriate student placements.

Next Meeting

The next and last meeting of the Prosperity Region 8 TDCC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2018 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo RESA, 1819 E. Milham, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Olsen, TDCC staff support

Kris Jenkins, Chair TDCC Region 8