

Veterans Community Action Team (VCAT)

Kathy Olsen reported the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA)'s Veteran Friendly Employer Workshop took place on March 6, 2019 at Consumers Credit Union's Corporate Office. Forty-nine (49) employers attended the event during which Dave Dunkel and Randy Leffel of the MVAA provided information and tools to assist employers in gaining status as a MVAA Veteran Friendly Employer. Opportunities to tie an individual's existing Veteran education benefits with career advancement opportunities within an employment setting were also discussed. The event received positive feedback from those in attendance.

Ms. Olsen also reported planning for the Fall Veteran Summit has begun. More information about the event will be shared as it becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS

WDB Membership Changes (*Exhibit B*)– Kathy Olsen requested board consideration and approval of changes for representation on the Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development Board. The changes included appointing Eva Tobolic, Centralized Recruiter-Kalamazoo for Speedway, representing the Private Sector for the balance of a two-year term that ends September 30, 2019. Ms. Tobolic's service area encompasses the Michigan Works! Southwest region and beyond. Ms. Olsen also requested that Michael Wilson, Regional Coordinator for the Southwest Michigan Region 8 Veteran Community Action Team (VCAT) be appointed as an additional alternate, representing the Community-Based Organization sector for the balance of a two-year term that ends September 30, 2020.

Motion made by Kris Jenkins and supported by David Maurer to approve the Workforce Development Board membership change appointing Eva Tobolic, representing the private sector, for the remainder of the two-year term ending September 30, 2019; and appointing Michael Wilson as an additional alternate representing the Community-Based Organization sector, for the remainder of the two-year term ending September 30, 2020. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Marketing (*Exhibits C*) – Kathy Olsen referenced *Exhibit C* in the agenda packet which included information about upcoming events for job seekers and employers within the Michigan Works! Southwest four-county region. Ms. Olsen reported that with hiring season upon us, there are many upcoming job fairs; further details were included in the handout.

Business Services / Talent Fund Update – Kara Stewart reported staff are actively working on forming Industry-Led Collaboratives (ILCs) with employers who were not awarded funding from the first round of the Going PRO Talent Fund grant. ILCs allow individual employers with similar training needs to form a consortium and apply for funding as a collaborative. Michigan Works! Southwest Business Services staff personally go through the list of local submissions and work to form the ILC connections, developing solutions which allow employers to apply for, and hopefully receive, grant funding to aid in upskilling their employees. Thus far, one ILC, made-up of seven employers within St. Joseph County, has been awarded. Additional collaboratives submitted include one for three employers in Kalamazoo and Marshall, and an Early Childhood Development collaborative with four employers. The unmet needs of trainings plans within the local Human Resources and Manufacturing Consortiums and the possibility of reintroducing the option for forming ILCs to those groups was discussed.

The Career.Life.Expo., an event in partnership with the United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, will be taking place on March 26, 2019 at the Kalamazoo Expo Center with a VIP hour for Veterans and individuals with disabilities from Noon to 1:00 p.m., and opening to the general public upon the completion of the VIP hour. The opportunity to engage youth looking for summer employment is also being offered at this event. Flyers for the event were available at the meeting.

Ms. Stewart also reported the Michigan Works! Association Impact Awards took place in Lansing at the end of February. Governor Whitmer was present and gave a speech at the event which recognized individuals and employers who displayed outstanding leadership and a deep commitment to the advancement of workforce development within their companies. Local awardees included April Goodwin on behalf of Southwest Child Care Resources, and Emily Wilger,

a Youth Program participant who completed the Early Childhood Development Education Pre-Apprenticeship through the WIOA Youth Program, and who was then hired at New Genesis, Inc. within their Apprenticeship Program. Upon completion of the apprenticeship, Ms. Wilger will receive her Child Development Associates Credential. Lisa Smith and Karen Carlisle were thanked for their involvement with the creation of both the Early Childhood Education Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Training Program.

The 2019 Pure Michigan Agriculture Summit will be taking place on March 19, 2019 at the Kalamazoo Radisson in downtown Kalamazoo. The summit provides the opportunity for business to business interaction and trade. Individuals interested in more information were instructed to contact Kara Stewart.

The layoff of sixty-eight (68) employees from the food science sector at Kellogg in Battle Creek resulted in an event whereby affected employees were invited to meet with local employers and entrepreneurial experts for a networking event. Ashley Iovieno reported the event, which was less structured than a job fair, was designed to appeal to the educational and employment level of the individuals being laid off. Shabaka Gibson stated that forty-five (45) affected employees attended the event, as well as approximately ten employers. The model proved effective for higher level workers, with job offers reportedly being made and some individuals expressing interest in entrepreneurial opportunities within the area. Kara Stewart expressed appreciation to Shabaka Gibson and Battle Creek Unlimited for their assistance with this event.

Labor Market Information (LMI) (Exhibit D) – The link to access the 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! SW Area for the period January 1 through February 28, 2019 was sent to members via email along with the agenda packet.

Dashboard Report (Exhibit E) – Amy Meyers reported page one of the Michigan Works! Dashboard report (*Exhibit E*) included local labor participation data, top employers advertising online, top job categories, top occupations and education requirements. There were no changes in this data from the previous report given at the February 15, 2019 Full Board Meeting. On page two, she reported a total of 74,042 individuals had visited to the Michigan Works! Southwest Service Centers since July 2018, with 1,325 jobs filled with Michigan Works! Southwest assistance and 731 employers assisted. Data for the Food Assistance Employment & Training (FAE&T) program and Families Forward Demonstration (FFD) were also included on page two, as well as WIOA registrations. The PATH wage, participation rate and employment rate were highlighted on page three of the report. On the final page of the Dashboard report, links to Michigan Works! Southwest media coverage were provided. Ms. Meyers reported the articles were the result of Governor Whitmer’s local visits on her ‘Home for Opportunity Tour’, the launch of the Vision for Prosperity Pre-Apprenticeship Training, and the one-hundred (100) year anniversary of the Douglass Association. Goal4It PRO, a training for supervision and staff development practices in alignment with the Goal4It approach, and Project IMPROVE were also highlighted on the final page of the report. Dallas Oberlee reported Project IMPROVE is a grant focused on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs in which the Michigan Work! Southwest Partnership.Accountability.Training.Hope. (PATH) program was asked to be a partner. Representatives from Mathematica have a site visit scheduled with PATH staff later this month.

Director’s Report – Jakki Bungart-Bibb distributed a Memorandum dated March 7, 2019 regarding a State Budget Update from the Michigan Works! Association President, Luann Dunsford. Ms. Bungart-Bibb reported on March 5, 2019, Governor Whitmer presented her fiscal year 2019-20 executive budget recommendations, and the distributed memorandum outlined proposed changes that would directly affect Michigan Works! Southwest programs and services. Highlights from the proposed funding for line-items related to workforce development programs included:

- The proposed funding of \$27.9 million for Going Pro, the same level of funding as FY2019.
- Proposed funding levels for Partnership.Accountability.Training.Hope. (PATH) are still undecided.
- It was been recommended that funding for Community Ventures be discontinued.
- The proposed elimination of “At-Risk Youth Grants”.
- The proposed addition of a line-item for “UIA Advocacy Assistance” with funding of \$1.5 million.
- The recommendation of \$379.7 million for workforce development programs, a slight decrease from FY2019.

It was reported that though funding levels for Going PRO remain the same, the recommendation for no specific Going PRO earmarks could result in a decrease in overall funding levels.

Ms. Bungart-Bibb also reported Kara Stewart has accepted the position of PTAC Manager, replacing Jan Campbell who will be retiring at the beginning of April.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

CITIZENS' TIME

None.

MEMBERS' TIME

David Maurer reported the Michigan Manufacturers Association met and discussed the possible elimination of the ACT WorkKeys career readiness tests from the Michigan Merit Examination and the associated implications that the elimination would have on the manufacturing sector. Mr. Maurer stated that though Kalamazoo County has not embraced the use of WorkKeys as a whole, many employers within the manufacturing field rely on the scores of the career readiness tests to gauge certain aptitudes necessary for employment. The likelihood of schools paying for the testing should it be eliminated from the Michigan Merit Examination was discussed, as well as other possible assessment resources, including an initiative currently taking place in Grand Rapids in which a consultant is meeting with different local employers to determine a system for job grouping in order to create standardized assessments and interview processes for similar positions regardless of employer.

Eva Tobolic introduced herself to those in attendance. Ms. Tobolic is a Staff Recruiter for Speedway, covering stores from Kalamazoo to Indiana. Eva has participated in the Career.Life.Expo. and attended a Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) meeting last year to provide employers feedback on the event. She also presented with members of the DART committee at the 2018 Michigan Works! Annual Conference. Eva stated she has a passion for workforce development and volunteering within the community and looks forward to participating on the Workforce Development Board.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Members were reminded of the next Full Workforce Development Board and Executive Committee meetings.

The next **Full Workforce Development Board** is scheduled for Friday, May 10, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. at Branch Area ISD Career Center, 370 Morse St, Coldwater, MI 49036.

The next **Executive Committee** is scheduled for Friday, April 12, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. at Battle Creek Unlimited, 4950 W. Dickman Rd, Battle Creek, MI 39037.

The dates for the other committee meetings were listed on the agenda as follows:

The next **Monitoring and Evaluation Committee** is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2019 from 8:00 – 9:30 at Michigan Works! Southwest Service Center, 200 W. Van Buren St, Battle Creek, MI 49017.

The next **Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART)** is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2019 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

The next **Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC)** meeting is Monday, March 25, 2019 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA), 1819 E. Milham Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49002.

Veterans Committee –

VCAT Region 8 Quarterly Meeting – Tuesday, April 23, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Battle Creek VA

VCAT Employment Sub-committee – Wednesday, March 20, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the Upjohn Institute

VCAT Education Sub-committee – Thursday, March 28, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Upjohn Institute

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other reports, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

Kathy Olsen

Date

Randall Hazelbaker, Chair

Date