

**Workforce Development Board  
Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes  
November 20, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Workforce Development Board Chair Brian O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at Battle Creek Unlimited, 4950 W. Dickman Road, Battle Creek, Michigan.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Individuals attending in-person and virtually introduced themselves.

**WDB Members Present:**

Darrin Adair (Educ)*	Jared Hoffmaster (PS) <sup>^</sup>	David Stafford (PS)
Bobby Beauchamp, alt for Dr. Paul Watson (EDU)	Karen Marcath (PAA)	Dr. Paul Watson (EDU)
Jill Bland (Econ Dev)	Brian O'Donnell (PS)*	Frank Tecumseh (PS)*
John Fiore (RA)	Jose Orozco (CBO)	
Randall Hazelbaker (PS)*	David Pawloski (Labor)	* Exec Committee
	David Prellwitz (Labor)	<sup>^</sup> Attended virtually

**WDB Members Absent**

Jonathan Current (Labor)	Lisa Johansen (OTH)	
Ross Daniels (PS)	Derek King (PS)	Liz Van Dussen (PS)
Jessica Eyster (PS)	David Maurer (PS)	Ken Willcutt (PS)
Jeff Heppler (PS)	Sabrina Radenovic (PS)	
Al Ives (PS)	Windy Rea (CBO)	

**Center for Workforce Innovation and Solutions / Michigan Works! Southwest Staff Present:**

Jakki Bungart-Bibb	Amy Meyers	Mark Waurio <sup>^</sup>
Debbie Horn	Amanda Rosenberg	
Ashley Iovieno	Jennifer Teske	

**Guests Present**

Jim Benton (KRESA)	Erin Dominianni (Upjohn)	Brett Moor (Ripple Effects)
Lisa M. Brown (Ripple Effects)	Blaine Farr (WDI)	Amanda Sutherland (KRESA)
Ashley Cantrell (Ripple Effects)	Tonya Forbes (KCC)	Kristine Stevens (GOCC)
Lauren Cavalli (Ripple Effects)	Peter Kalogiros <sup>^</sup>	Irene Williams (MWSW/Hubs)
Paige Daniels (KRESA)	For Senator Elissa Slotkin	
Nicole DeWitt (Ripple Effects)	Imani Lewis (KRESA)	

**ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY**

Jakki Bungart-Bibb commenced the awards ceremony by expressing gratitude to the Michigan Works! Southwest administrative staff for their dedicated efforts over the past year. Additionally, she extended her appreciation to the MWSW service providers who work diligently to deliver exceptional services to the MWSW customers, consistently surpassing performance standards and contributing to the success of MWSW as a high-performing Michigan Works! Agency. Specifically, Ms. Bungart-Bibb thanked the leaders from KRESA, WDI, and the Upjohn Institute for their invaluable efforts.

The following awards were also presented in recognition of the outstanding support and

commitment to enhancing the local communities exhibited by each specific awardee over the course of the past year:

- **Community Partner of the Year Award – Kellogg Community College (KCC)**
- **Volunteer of the Year Award – Brian O'Donnell**
- **Employer of the Year Award – Ripple Effects**
- **Legislator of the Year Award – Julie Rogers**

On behalf of KCC, Dr. Paul Watson acknowledged the exceptional contributions of his team, including Tonya Forbes and Bobby Beauchamp, who accompanied him. The team employs a three-pronged approach: being present, actively listening, and responding accordingly. Dr. Watson expressed his pride in his team's commitment to this methodology and their consistent execution.

Brian O'Donnell thanked the amazing staff at Michigan Works! Southwest, without their dedication, guidance, and leadership, none of this would be possible. He thanked the current and past board members, stating that their leadership, vision, and guidance influenced him to be proactive in the community and strive to serve its best interests.

On behalf of Ripple Effects, Lauren Cavalli stated it's been an incredible experience to work with Michigan Works! Southwest. The support Ripple Effects received in the development of their apprenticeship training programs has been amazing. They received grant awards through MISTAIRS, the Going PRO Talent Fund. They were also recognized at the Race to Talent event. Ms. Cavalli thanked the board for that recognition and recognized her staff from all five locations in Southwest Michigan, noting the hard work on this program, as they have fourteen apprentices. Additionally, they opened a non-profit community inclusion center in Portage. There are six apprentices there working as Direct Support Workers. Ms. Cavalli stated she really appreciates the support from Michigan Works! Southwest.

It was also noted that Julie Rogers was unable to attend the event but plans to receive her award at a later date.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **2025 Annual Report**

Jakki Bungart-Bibb directed the attention of the group to the 2025 Annual Report, which highlights MWSW's successes within four key priorities: Outreach, Integration, Innovation, and Impact. Highlights included over 181,000 visitors to the MWSW service centers over the past year. A 22% increase in training engagement and a 7 % rise in program participation. The MWSW Workforce Development Board's second year of receiving the Board of Excellence Award was also highlighted in the report, as well as the GoingPRO Talent Fund, which awarded nearly \$2.5 million to train new hires, upskill existing employees, and hire apprentices across 45 businesses over the course of the past year. Ms. Bungart-Bibb also thanked the board members, for whom MWSW is incredibly grateful, for their continued commitment and service.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

### **MW! Southwest Shining Star Awards**

**August 2025** – Irene Williams has been recognized for her exceptional commitment to Michigan Works! Southwest as a Career Coach with the Neighborhood Employment HUB Program.

Ms. Williams expressed her gratitude to the group for acknowledging her nine years of dedicated service and the work she is passionate about.

**September 2025** – Debbie Horn was recognized for her exceptional positivity, professionalism, and team-oriented mindset.

Debbie expressed her gratitude to the group for their recognition and conveyed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with such outstanding colleagues.

**October 2025** – Imani Lewis was recognized for her exceptional commitment to youth development and community service.

Imani expressed her gratitude for the exceptional team she collaborates with at KRESA and Michigan Works! Southwest. She highlighted that individuals often visit the service centers during challenging times in their lives and emphasized that it is not only the customer service provided, but also the supportive environment created that makes a difference. She attributes this positive atmosphere to the dedication of her colleagues and is profoundly thankful for their collective efforts.

### **TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY OF WDB DECISIONS**

Debbie Horn asked members present if there were any items on the agenda for which a conflict of interest or a potential conflict of interest exists; and if so, the conflict should be declared at this time. There were none.

### **PUBLIC TIME**

Peter Kalogiros reported on behalf of U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin, who expressed her gratitude to everyone for their contributions to the community, particularly during these difficult economic times. Senator. Slotkin is prioritizing key areas such as healthcare access and affordability, housing, and workforce development. Her goal is to foster an environment that is conducive to creating future job opportunities for the youth. Additionally, she is committed to attracting new industries to Michigan while sustaining the existing ones.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Exhibit A)**

**Motion made by Frank Tecumseh and supported by Dr. Paul Watson to approve the September 18, 2025, WDB Executive Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **WDB Plans (Exhibits B, C, D, and E)**

Amanda Rosenberg requested Board consideration and approval of the four workforce development plans included in the agenda packet. Details for each plan were described in the corresponding Exhibit and are listed below:

- PY2025 National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP)
- FY2026 Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope (PATH) Transitional Support Services
- FY2026 Gain Employment. Maintain Support (GEMS) Program
- FY2026 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Refugee Program

**Motion made by Dr. Paul Watson and supported by John Fiore to approve the PY2025 National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) Plan Instructions Plan as presented. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Frank Tecumseh and supported by Jill Bland to approve the FY2026 Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope (PATH) Transitional Support Services Funding Plan as presented. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Randall Hazelbaker and supported by David Stafford to approve the FY2026 Gain Employment. Maintain Support (GEMS) Program Plan as presented. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Frank Tecumseh and supported by John Fiore to approve the FY2026 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Refugee Program Plan as presented. Motion carried.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Director Updates**

**Work Requirements** - Jakki Bungart-Bibb reported that beginning December 1, 2025, work requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) beneficiaries will be implemented, with early referrals already happening. Currently, there is no extra funding available to support these requirements, but the state is seeking solutions. Additionally, Ms. Bungart-Bibb reported that Medicaid work requirements begin in 2027, though states may commence in early 2026. Updates on both SNAP and Medicaid work requirements will be provided as more information becomes available.

**State Budget Update** – Jakki Bungart-Bibb reported that a state budget has been approved, but it poses challenges for workforce development, with significant cuts including a \$20 million reduction in the Going PRO Talent Fund (GPTF) and a \$500,000 cut to Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG), while funding specific to apprenticeships and barrier removal has been eliminated. Ms. Bungart-Bibb further reported that the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) has also faced substantial cuts, though the full impact on our programs remains unclear. As many programs compete for limited funds, employers must advocate for workforce development initiatives. Continued support from stakeholders will be vital in the upcoming budget cycle to maintain these essential programs for job seekers and employers.

**Federal Budget Update** – Jakki Bungart-Bibb reported that the federal government's continuing resolution has temporarily funded programs, allowing some stability despite ongoing uncertainty about full-year funding. The national association for workforce boards conducted a survey revealing the difficulties local boards face due to the shutdown. Their findings highlight the strain on workforce systems and include four key recommendations for Congress aimed at improving and stabilizing the workforce framework. A follow-up report will be distributed after this meeting for further insights.

In closing, Ms. Bungart-Bibb reported that during a recent call with leaders from the U.S. Department of Labor, it was confirmed that the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is still a priority and is actively being pursued. The leaders expressed their ongoing commitment to advancing the reauthorization process, indicating a desire to move forward and make it happen.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **PUBLIC TIME**

None.

## **MEMBERS' TIME**

Frank Tecumseh asked if the WDB is at full strength. Ms. Meyers mentioned that MWSW has achieved the composition required; however, additional representation from rural communities and an individual from the Healthcare sector is desired.

Brian O'Donnell took a moment to thank all the Michigan Works! staff, current board members, and all the members of the public for such a wonderful year. Mr. O'Donnell reported that it is a privilege to be the Chair of this board and to engage with all four counties.

Jill Bland reported that the auto industry is seeing a lack of retention. There are discussions going on about these challenges, with the modernization of facilities a topic of discussion to keep companies competitive.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Brian O'Donnell referred members to the list of upcoming WDB meetings that were listed on the agenda.

- Executive Committee meeting is Thursday, January 15, 2026, from 9:00-10:30 a.m. at the Calhoun County Michigan Works! Service Center, 200 W. Van Buren, Battle Creek, MI 49017.
- Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) meeting is Monday, December 8, 2025, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at The Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.
- Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) meeting is Thursday, March 12, 2026, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no other reports or business for the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m. by Brian O'Donnell.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Horn

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian O'Donnell

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### APPROVED

These minutes were approved on \_\_\_\_\_