

**Workforce Development Board
 Meeting Minutes
 May 19, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: Workforce Development Board Chair, Frank Tecumseh, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the WMed Innovation Center, 4717 Campus Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

Attendees introduced themselves and Kathy Olsen introduced individuals who were attending virtually.

WDB Members Present:

Jill Bland (Econ Dev)	Randall Hazelbaker (PS)*	Jose Orozco/Charles Rose (CBO)
Kathi Cain-Babbitt, alt for Willcutt (Labor)	Jared Hoffmaster (PS)	Mike Quinn (PS)
John Fiore (MRS)	Kris Jenkins (Educ)*	Frank Tecumseh (PS)*
Lisa Godfrey (PS)*	Dave Maurer (PS)*	* Exec Committee
	Brian O'Donnell (Labor)	∇ Attended Virtually

WDB Members Absent

Trevor Bidelman (Labor)	Derek King (PS)	David Sutherland (PS)
Karen Doubleday (DHHS)	Monteze Morales (Educ)	Elizabeth VanDusen (PS)
Dan Dunn (PS)*	Jackie Murray (PS)*	Ken Willcutt (Labor)
Jessica Eyster (PS)	Chantel Paxton (PS)	Angila Wilson (PS)
Lisa Johansen (DOC)	Windy Rea (Job Corps)	* Exec Committee

Center for Workforce Innovation and Solutions / Michigan Works! / Upjohn Institute Staff Present:

Jakki Bungart- Bibb	Ashley Iovieno	Amanda Rosenberg ∇
Ben Damerow	Amy Meyers	
Aseel Hussein ∇	Kathy Olsen	

Michigan Works! Services / Program Staff Present:

Paige Daniels (YOU/KRESA)	Julie Klein (Special Initiatives)	Amanda Sutherland (YOU/KRESA)
Sam Dougherty (WDI)	Stefanie Peters (YOU/KRESA)	Mark Waurio (PATH/WEUI)
Blaine Farr (WDI)	Eric Stewart (KRESA)	

Guests Present:

Jim Berry (SJCISD)	Bob Kennedy (Vestaron)	Paul Watson (KCC)
Sandra Cochran (WMed)	Don Reid (USA Today Network) ∇	
Madonna Jackson (GOCC) ∇	Rep. Julie Rogers/legislative staff ∇	

SHINING STAR AWARD

Jakki Bungart-Bibb recognized two shining stars this month. She reported that the Shining Star Award celebrates dedicated and outstanding employees within the Michigan Works! network who work tirelessly to serve customers. The March Shining Star Award was presented to Julie Klein. She reported Julie has over 25 years of workforce development experience serving in various roles in the Michigan Works! network, including the adult and dislocated worker program, PATH, EDGE, and many more. Julie most recently has been working with the Neighborhood Employment Hubs serving as a business services resource and a career coach for students enrolled in the iACT training program. Her focus is getting the students connected to employers as soon as their training

is complete. Her nomination stated, “Julie is always willing to go above and beyond to help job seekers and employers. She is truly passionate about this work, and it shows in everything she does.”

The April Shining Star Award was presented to Stefanie Peters. Ms. Bibb reported Stefanie has 13 years of workforce development experience also working in various roles within the Michigan Works! network, including the WIOA Youth Services Program and Trade Adjustment Assistance Program. Her current role is TAA Manager. Her nomination stated, “Stefanie is a walking encyclopedia of knowledge when it comes to the laws, rules, and regulations of TAA. She loves to share her knowledge with her team, as well as elevate them to be the best they can be.”

Ms. Bibb expressed congratulations on behalf of staff and the Board to both awardees and WDB chair, Frank Tecumseh presented them with certificates of recognition.

PROGRAM

Jill Bland introduced Sandra Cochrane, Assistant Dean of the WMed Innovation Center, and Bob Kennedy, Chief Scientific Officer for Vestaron. Ms. Cochrane provided information about the history of the Innovation Center. She reported the incubator is part of the Kalamazoo Smart Zone, which serves the Kalamazoo region and that it is also ranked number two (2) of Smart Zones in Michigan using the [MiSTEM Forward](#) for student internships. The Innovation Center has served more than one hundred companies and the success rate of client companies exceeds 80-85%. Mr. Kennedy provided information about Vestaron, Inc., one of the companies housed at the Innovation Center. He reported that Vestaron develops and markets safe and effective bioinsecticides derived from naturally occurring peptides found in spider venom. His presentation also included information about the history of Vestaron and its growth.

TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY OF WDB DECISIONS

Annual Conflict of Interest Form (Exhibit A) – Kathy Olsen reported State and local policy requires Workforce Development Board members to annually declare that they do not have a conflict of interest. She included the form in the agenda packet as Exhibit A and extra copies were also available on the table at the entrance to the meeting room. She requested that each member complete and sign a form and return it to her as soon as possible.

Kathy Olsen asked members present if there were any items on the agenda requiring a vote 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.

CITIZENS' TIME

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WDB Executive Committee March 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes (Exhibit B)

Motion made by Dave Maurer and supported by John Fiore to approve the March 17, 2022, Workforce Development Board Executive Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEAC Report

Kris Jenkins reported Lee Adams from the Upjohn Institute presented an economic forecast on industries and jobs at the CEAC meeting held earlier this week. The MiSTEM regional director shared multiple professional development opportunities for staff that are scheduled during the summer months and announced that MiSTEM is piloting a trades program in Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, and Hastings. This pilot trades program is a partnership with the Michigan Building Trades. Adult Education reported that enrollments are back to near what they were prior to COVID-19. The MiCareerQuest™ event returned to an in-person event and was held on Tuesday and

Wednesday of this week at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. MiCareerQuest™ is a two-day event for eighth grade students in Kalamazoo and Calhoun Counties. She further reported that Kalamazoo RESA is deep in design development for the new CTE center and groundbreaking is scheduled for September. CEAC members voted to recommend to the WDB that Jim Berry from St. Joseph County CTE serve as the CEAC Vice-Chair. Kathy Olsen suggested adding the request to approve this appointment to the CEAC appointments listed under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

WDB Announcements

Posting of Local and Regional Plans for 30-day Review and Comment Period – Amy Meyers reported the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) to engage in a regional planning process that results in the development of a WIOA four-year Regional Plan. Michigan Works! Southwest is part of a seven-county area that includes the four counties served by MW! Southwest as well as Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. WIOA further states that each local WDB is also responsible for developing a Local Plan. The Local Plan serves as a four-year action plan to develop, align, and integrate service delivery strategies and to support the State’s vision and strategic and operational goals. These Regional and Local Plans, at a minimum, must be modified at the end of the first two-year period of the four-year plans. This is known as the mid-cycle modification. Both plans are currently posted on the Michigan Works! Southwest website and are subject to a 30-day public review and comment period. Kathy Olsen sent an email earlier this week with the link to the plans and the guidance on submitting comments or questions.

United Way Grant Award - In 2019, Michigan Works! Southwest was awarded multi-year funding (\$25,000/year) from United Way for the Battle Creek Employee Resource Fund. The annual renewal of the funding requires the signature of the WDB Chairperson. This is a partnership between Michigan Works! Southwest, the Calhoun Intermediate School District and the Department of Health and Human Services. The grant funds provide an opportunity for families to receive assistance paying tuition at a high-quality childcare facility, to assist parents in retaining employment or working to obtain employment.

CEAC Appointments (Exhibit C)

Kathy Olsen requested WDB consideration and approval of membership changes to the WDB Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) for Michigan Works! Southwest. The membership changes included:

- The appointment of Dr. Mark Dunneback, Dean for Business & Technical Careers at Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC), representing post-secondary education, replacing Dr. Tracy Labadie as the alternate member for Dr. Deb Coates. This appointment is for the balance of a term that began October 1, 2020, and which ends September 30, 2022.
- The appointment of Dr. Madonna Jackson, Dean of Academics at Glen Oaks Community College (GOCC), representing post-secondary education, replacing Michael Goldin. Mr. Goldin transitioned to another post-secondary institution in December 2021. This appointment is for the balance of a term that began October 1, 2020, and which ends September 30, 2022.
- The appointment of James Berry, Director of Career Technical Education (CTE) at St. Joseph Intermediate School District, representing CTE, replacing Tommy Cameron who retired at the end of March 2022. This appointment is for the balance of a term that began October 1, 2021, and which ends September 30, 2023.
- Ms. Olsen also requested the approval of James Berry to serve as Vice Chair of the CEAC.

Motion made by Jill Bland and supported by Lisa Godfrey to approve the CEAC appointments of Dr. Mark Dunneback, Dean for Business & Technical Careers at Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC), representing post-secondary education, as an alternate for Dr. Deb Coates for the balance of a term that began October 1, 2020 and which ends September 30, 2022; Dr. Madonna Jackson, Dean of Academics at Glen Oaks Community College (GOCC), representing post-secondary education for the balance of a term that began October 1, 2020 and which ends September 30, 2022; James Berry, Director of Career Technical Education (CTE) at St. Joseph Intermediate School District, representing CTE for the balance of a term that began October 1, 2021 and which ends September 30, 2023; and the appointment of James Berry to serve as Vice Chair of the CEAC. Motion carried.

WDB Policies (Exhibit D)

WDB Policy 24 Rev 07 – Grievance and Complaint (Exhibit D1) - Kathy Olsen reported changes to WDB Policy 24 Rev 07 “Grievance and Complaint” included adding language to include participants and employer-based training employers in the background section; updating references throughout the policy; and adding language to address an opportunity to resolve complaints informally, the distribution of the EO notice and grievance and complaint procedures to employees and the maintenance of the signed acknowledgement of receipt of EO and grievance and complaint documents. Language was added to address accessibility, language barriers, and the posting of complaint and grievance procedures. The policy outline was reformatted to adjust to these changes.

WDB Policy 25 Rev 04 – Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity (Exhibit D2) - Kathy Olsen reported WDB Policy 25 Rev 04 “Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity” was updated to change the name and phone number for the designated EO officer for Michigan Works! Southwest. Amy Meyers is the designated EO officer, and her phone number is 269-385-0414.

Motion made by Randal Hazelbaker and supported by Michael Quinn to approve WDB Policy 24 Rev 07 Grievance and Complaint and WDB Policy 25 Rev 04 Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity. Motion carried.

Wagner-Peyser Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Exhibits G & H) – Ben Damerow reported on the USDOL Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing Proposed Rule, the history of Wagner-Peyser staffing and the impact that the proposed rule would have on the workforce system. The proposed rule would require states, with no exceptions, to use State merit staff to provide Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service (ES) services. In the 1990s, during a time of high unemployment, the US Department of Labor approved limited exemptions from the merit-staffing requirement for three States (Colorado, Massachusetts, and Michigan) during the establishment of the one-stop delivery system to test alternative service-delivery models. In 1991, the State of Michigan sued the USDOL and won which gives MW! the flexibility to braid funding, and since 1998, Kalamazoo RESA has been the subrecipient providing these services. In seeking national consistency, other states have expressed support for the Michigan model, and it is also supported by the National Workforce Association. Mr. Damerow distributed an infographic (Exhibit G) highlighting how this proposed rule would affect Michigan’s job seekers and employers. The infographic also included rationale as to why the proposed rule should not be implemented as well as the impacts the proposed staffing rule would have on Employment Services. Mr. Damerow requested board consideration and approval of a proposed Resolution for the Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development Board (Exhibit H) urging the USDOL to abandon the proposed rule change on Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing (Docket No. ETA-2022-0003) which would require States, with no exceptions, to use State merit staff to provide Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service (ES) services. The resolution also urges Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Congressional Delegation to support local control by the Workforce Development Boards and oppose this rule and notify USDOL Secretary that it would have an adverse impact on the Michigan “One Stop” Workforce Development System. As part of the official record, the Resolution is attached to these minutes.

Motion made by Lisa Godfrey and supported by Jill Bland to approve the Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development Board Resolution urging the USDOL to abandon the proposed rules change on Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing (Docket No. ETA-2022-0003) which would require State, with no exceptions, to use State merit staff to provide Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service (ES) services. The resolution also urges Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Congressional Delegation to support local control by the Workforce Development Boards and oppose this rule and notify USDOL Secretary that it would have an adverse impact on the Michigan One Stop Workforce Development System. Motion carried.

County Commissioner Mike Quinn offered to also take the Resolution to the Kalamazoo County Board for their approval.

STAFF REPORTS

Business Services Activities

Ashley Iovieno provided an update on the Going PRO Talent Fund (GPTF) Industry Led Collaborative (ILC), MiCareerQuest™ Southwest, and the Battle Creek Chamber's Business Excellence Awards.

Going PRO Talent Fund (GPTF) Industry Led Collaborative (ILC) – Ms. Iovieno reported last week Michigan Works! Southwest received notice from the State of Michigan that a Going Pro Talent Fund Industry Led Collaborative (GPTF/ILC) application recently submitted was approved for an award. This ILC group, called the Mid-South Manufacturers Collaborative, features six local employers that partnered to share costs for in-demand trainings with local providers. They are partnering on twelve (12) trainings that include Blueprint Reading, GD&T Fundamentals, and Supervisory Skills. The companies are from across the MW! Southwest service area. Approximately 180 local employees will be trained with this grant award. The award total for the companies in this ILC is \$138,065, with each company award ranging from \$790 to \$49,000. This ILC would not have come together without the leadership of Jackie Murray from Marshall Excelsior. She noted that to apply, there needs to be a lead employer and Jackie stepped into that role with ease. Ms. Iovieno expressed appreciation for Ms. Murray's organizational skills and support throughout the process. She expressed congratulations to Marshall Excelsior and the other five employers on the grant award.

MiCareerQuest™ Southwest – Ms. Iovieno reported the Business Services team is coming off a few busy days as this week MiCareerQuest™ Southwest was held in-person for the first time in two years. This event was held Tuesday and Wednesday this week at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. Over fifty (50) employers displayed what they do for approximately 4,000 eighth graders from Kalamazoo, Calhoun, and Cass Counties. This year's event included new additions such as a "Touch a Truck" exhibit that featured large trucks and vehicles used in everyday jobs. The rooms inside the Expo Center were split up to increase student exploration and to help with COVID safety. This event was made possible by the partnerships of KRESA, Calhoun Area Career Center, Southwest Michigan First and Michigan Works! Southwest as well as the amazing local employers who were willing and able to highlight what they do.

Battle Creek Chamber's Business Excellence Awards – Ms. Iovieno reported that at last night's Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce's Business Excellence Awards, Heather Ignash, Michigan Works! Southwest Business Services Coordinator for Calhoun County, was recognized as a 2022 "Outstanding Woman in Business". Heather also celebrated her one-year work anniversary with Michigan Works! Southwest this week. She noted that Michigan Works! Southwest is proud to have Heather on the team and clearly, she has been making an impact in a short amount of time.

Labor Market Information

Michigan's Labor Market News – Ashley Iovieno reported Michigan's May edition of Labor Market News is now available and will be sent to members following the meeting. Something of note in this edition is that Michigan's seasonally adjusted jobless rate declined significantly by three-tenths of a percentage point over the month from 4.7% to 4.4% for the month of March. This is low by historical standards and the lowest rate since prior to the pandemic. April continues to show a decline dropping to 4.3%. The map of the month features the Percentage of the Michigan Population Under the Poverty Level. Online job ads rose for the third consecutive month with 269,300 total available ads during the month of March. In this edition, the Michigan Unemployment rate was reported to be at 4.4%, the national rate was reported to be at 3.6% and the four counties in the Michigan Works! Southwest service area ranges from 3.5% to 4.7%. This edition also includes highlights from the annual planning information and workforce analysis reports. This information assists with regional and local plans for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Job Demand Dashboard - Ms. Iovieno reported the latest Jobs Demand Dashboard continues to show Registered Nurses at the top, followed by Retail Salespersons, and First Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers. Customer Service and Scheduling are the two highest skills in demand by employers which is in line with what staff are seeing and hearing from local employers.

Burning Glass Analytics and Real Time Jobs Data (Exhibit E) - In addition to the verbal report, the website link to the labor market reports generated from Burning Glass Analytics and Real Time Jobs Data that identified 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 March 1, 2022, through April 30, 2022, was included in the meeting notice.

Operations Update

Ms. Bibb reported all service centers continue to be open to the public offering both virtual and in person services, and there was a slight decrease of individuals visiting the centers in April compared to March. Staff are looking forward to a recent change in the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) process that may help increase the traffic and bring in more available talent. This program refers unemployment insurance applicants who are most likely to exhaust their unemployment benefits or to be long-term unemployed to Michigan Works! for individualized reemployment services. This program focuses on reducing time on unemployment insurance and serves as an entry point to other workforce opportunities. In the past, MW! Southwest has received 20-25 percent of the eligible applicant referrals. Recently, Michigan Works! leadership worked with the Unemployment Insurance and Workforce Development Agencies to discuss options to increase the number of RESEA referrals as a statewide effort to serve more eligible individuals. All parties agreed to move forward with increasing referrals to all eligible applicants beginning May 23, 2022.

Director's Report (Exhibit F)

The Director's report (Exhibit F) was distributed at the meeting. Jakki Bungart- Bibb reported at the beginning of May, M-Live published an article related to the Clean Slate Law. This article highlights a couple of studies that show people with convictions face higher unemployment rates. It also showed that those employed who can get their records expunged saw their wages increase by 23%. The article also mentions the Michigan Works! Clean Slate program and states that Michigan Works! has provided services to 20,000 people statewide since the Clean Slate Law went into effect. The link to the article was included in the Director's report that was emailed to members following the meeting.

The Director's Report also included information about the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Wagner Peyser which was covered earlier in the meeting. The information provided was a summary for members to reference.

Lastly, Ms. Bibb reported the house passed the WIOA Reauthorization Bill on May 17, 2022, along with approving bipartisan amendments. Amendments that were not bipartisan were defeated. The next steps for this bill remain unclear as the senate outlook is uncertain. It is unlikely for this to move forward this calendar year.

SERVICE PROVIDERS – SPECIAL PROJECTS

The service providers for Michigan Works! Southwest provided a PowerPoint highlighting special projects that support workforce development programs.

Paige Daniels, representing Kalamazoo RESA, reported on career and talent development initiatives that included career awareness and exploration, work-based learning opportunities, and programs administered under Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU). Core program areas included Career and Technical Education (CTE), Education for the Arts (ERA), and Early/Middle College (EMC), all which provide opportunities to build skill development. She reported the next steps include activities such as career readiness, career coaching, and employment support services through Michigan Works! Southwest; employer and community engagement; and research partnerships. Amanda Sutherland reported on a financial literacy workshop series developed in partnership with Research Policy Associates. She reported the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) requires the Federal Reserve and other federal banking regulators to encourage financial institutions to help meet the credit needs in the communities in which they do business, including low-income and moderate-income neighborhoods. The workshops are held every other Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. and individuals can attend virtually or in-person. The sessions will be recorded and posted on the Michigan Works! Southwest YouTube channel. The desired outcomes for this

initiative are to provide financial literacy opportunities; make connections across a four-county footprint to build long-term financial growth for individuals served; and grow relationships between workforce development and local bank partners. A flyer regarding the Financial Literacy Workshops was distributed at the meeting. She also shared information about the MyCITY 2Gen initiative, a whole family approach to the already established MyCITY program. She reported that MyCITY 2Gen is funded by Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo and plans are to serve two cohorts of ten families each. The program is 7-weeks and will include a blend of adult only, combined virtual, and career coaching sessions. Ms. Daniels shared additional information regarding multiple summer programs that included the already established MyCITY Summer Youth Employment Program, CareerNOW academies, and the MyCITY 2Gen Program. She reported the summer programs are returning to fully in-person for 2022. Ms. Daniels then shared information about the career champions program and noted that during this pilot year there are two levels of participation that includes contributing champions and core champions. She concluded the presentation by sharing information regarding KRESA's new Career Center for which ground will be breaking in the fall. Plans are to use the facility outside of the school day for adult and two-generation approach programming.

Sam Dougherty provided information about the Workforce Development Institute and the programs and services they provide which includes WIOA adult and dislocated worker services. Participants served include unemployed and underemployed job seekers and job seekers who experience layoffs and/or plant closures. Services include professional career coaching and business services. He reported on Access for All, a pre-apprenticeship construction training program that has proven to be successful. Access for All helps to prepare individuals for entry into registered apprenticeship training programs. His presentation included information regarding the recruiting impact on WIOA registrations. He shared a graph displaying the month-to-month growth in registrations for 2022 and credited multiple partners throughout the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek areas who have made referrals.

Mark Waurio reported on special initiatives provided under direct services which included the Battle Creek Employer Resources Fund; Barrier Removal Employment Success (BRES); the Clean Slate Pilot; and the Learn, Earn and Provide (LEAP) Pilot. The Battle Creek Employer Resource Fund supports families with tuition costs at a high-quality childcare facility, to retain employment or if they are working to obtain employment. The BRES program (Barrier Removal Employment Success) provides funding to provide supportive services to remove barriers to employment for at-risk individuals. The focus is on serving individuals who are in the ALICE population (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). The Clean Slate Pilot supports participants with the set-aside conviction application process to remove an eligible criminal conviction. During the past year, two Clean Slate events were held, as well as multiple mini clinics. The LEAP pilot supports non-custodial parents in obtaining/maintaining employment to make on-time child support payments. The LEAP employment rate is at 68% and the hope is that this program will be expanded statewide.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

CITIZENS' TIME

No comments.

MEMBERS' TIME

No comments.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Frank Tecumseh noted a correction to the list of upcoming meetings. The next WDB Executive Committee meeting will be Thursday, June 16, 2022 (not June 15), from 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- The next meeting of the full WDB is scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 2022, from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Other upcoming committee meetings listed on the agenda included:

- The Monitoring and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2022, from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. at the Michigan Works! Service Center, 1601 S. Burdick Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- The Career Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2022, from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- The Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2022, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other reports or business for the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

ATTACHMENT

Resolution for the Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development Board

Kathy Olsen

Date

Frank Tecumseh

Date

Michigan Works! Southwest
Workforce Development Board
Resolution

WHEREAS, the US Department of Labor (USDOL) has published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing (Docket No. ETA-2022-0003) which would require States, with no exceptions, to use State merit staff to provide Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service (ES) services, and,

WHEREAS, the proposal would reverse current federal policy that allows States maximum flexibility in staffing to provide ES services, and,

WHEREAS, current federal policy has allowed the State of Michigan to use local merit staff employees to deliver ES services through the local network of Michigan Works! Agencies to over 86,000 job seekers in 2021, and,

WHEREAS, our primary concern is the negative impacts of this proposal to Michiganders and the primary customers of the workforce development system – both job seekers and employers, and,

WHEREAS, a key benefit to greater staffing flexibility is strong local strategic relationships with businesses, higher education, nonprofits, childcare, elementary and secondary education, adult education providers, and other partners which allows for more efficient customer service to connect job seekers with in-demand jobs and training opportunities and facilitates a pipeline for those students to local employers, and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development Board, comprised of business, labor and community leaders, is currently responsible for the effective and efficient delivery of four Michigan Works! American Job Centers in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and Saint Joseph Counties using approximately 21 local, partial or full time, Employment Services staff, and this rule would take away local control of Employment Services, and

WHEREAS, with this required staffing model, staff and service reductions are inevitable as services currently provided by over 400 Michigan Works! staff would be reduced to approximately 100 State of Michigan staff, resulting in significantly longer wait times for job seekers and delays in services for the 32,000 businesses served annually, and,

WHEREAS, this change would risk potential loss of several of the 99 full and satellite Michigan Works! American Job Centers across the state, and would negatively impact our constituents by decreased assistance filling job openings, reduction and elimination of job fairs, cutting of industry-led collaboratives, and decreased or no access to job training programs, and,


WHEREAS, limiting ES staffing to State staff, would eliminate the advantage of the streamlined current staffing model in Michigan which leverages other program funding from WIOA Title II Adult Education, SNAP, TANF, TAA, and others to supplement the Wagner-Peyser state allocation, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development, hereby urges the USDOL to abandon this proposed rule change, and urges Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Congressional Delegation to support local control by the Workforce Development Boards and oppose this rule and notify the USDOL Secretary that it would have an adverse impact on the Michigan "One Stop" workforce development system,

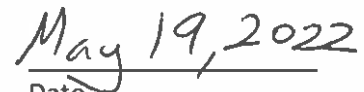
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the U.S. Employment and Training Administration/U.S. Department of Labor, Governor Whitmer, our U.S. Legislators and State Legislators.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned duly qualified Chairperson of the Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development Board certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at its May 19, 2022 Workforce Development Board meeting.



Frank Tecumseh



Date