

**Workforce Development Board
Annual Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: Workforce Development Board Chair, Jackie Murray, called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. at FireKeepers Casino, 11177 Michigan Avenue E., Battle Creek, Michigan.

On behalf of Frank Tecumseh, Jim Wise, Marketing Vice President for FireKeepers Casino welcomed the Workforce Development Board members and guests to FireKeepers.

WDB Members Present:

Morris Applebey (Labor)	Kris Jenkins (Educ)*	Charles Rose (CBO),
Jill Bland (Econ Dev)	Derek King (PS)	alternate for Orozco
Kathi Cain-Babbitt (Labor)	Jackie Murray (PS)*	Dr. Paul Watson (Educ)
John Fiore (MRS)	Brian O'Donnell (PS)*	
Randall Hazelbaker (PS)*	David Pawloski (Labor)	* Exec Committee
Al Ives (PS)		

WDB Members Absent

Karen Doubleday (DHHS)	Lisa Johansen (DOC)	Karla Meeks (PS)
Jessica Eyster (PS)	David Maurer (PS)*	Sabrina Radenovic (PS)
Jeff Heppler (PS)	Frank Tecumseh (PS)*	Windy Rea (Job Corps)
Jared Hoffmaster (PS)	Elizabeth VanDussen (PS)	Ken Willcutt (Labor)

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

Jakki Bungart-Bibb	Kathy Olsen	Ashley Iovieno
Amy Meyers	Amanda Rosenberg	Shelby Springett

Guests

Blaine Farr (WDI)

PUBLIC TIME

No comments.

TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY OF WDB DECISIONS

Kathy Olsen 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (*Exhibit A*)

Motion made by John Fiore and supported by Dr. Paul Watson to approve the November 21, 2024 Workforce Development Board quarterly meeting minutes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Career Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) – Kris Jenkins reported the CEAC Committee met on December 2, 2024. Updates included the following:

- Several businesses in the MW! Southwest region applied for grants from the Going PRO Talent Fund to support employee training. Statewide, there were over 1200 applications.

- Information pertaining to the [Michigan Apprenticeship Readiness Certificate \(MARC\)](#) was shared. MARC is a State issued certificate that confirms high-quality apprenticeship readiness along with a Perkins CTE credential. There were many questions around the value of a MARC and discussion as to how to get industry buy-in and endorsement. A request will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to provide a presentation at the March 2025 CEAC meeting.
- Funds from the MiSTAIRS grant to help offset apprenticeship costs are still available.
- The MiREACH training grant for rural healthcare providers is fully expended.
- The Air Zoo is hosting an open house for CTE programs from across Kalamazoo County this evening (Dec. 2) for students and parents to explore career interests.
- An Innovation Expo will be held later this week on Friday, December 6, at Western Michigan University's Engineering College.
- There will be an open house this spring for the new Career Center in Kalamazoo.
- CTE Programs across the region are working on completing follow-up surveys for CTE program graduates. The survey results provide valuable data for future planning.
- St. Joseph County ISD has approved \$200,000 for a manufacturing themed mobile lab.
- Calhoun Area Career Center (CACC) will start a cohort in the 2025-26 academic year of a canned curriculum, called [Craftsman with Character](#) that includes character education, soft skills and employability skills.
- CACC is seeking a computer networking or computer programming instructor. Please send anyone interested to the Calhoun ISD jobs website.
- KCC and WMU have received a \$700 thousand grant to support K-12 engagement in STEM for the next 18 months and a \$2.7 million grant to upskill incumbent worker for the Blue Oval Battery Park project.
- Adult Education is working with 107(a) funding to secure navigators and success coaches for the adult education programs that reside in the Southwest Michigan region. The goal is to improve connections with career technical education.
- There have been some temporary layoffs in the area and members noted the importance of reinforcing with students the fact that one way to help avoid being laid off is to become highly skilled.

Dr. Paul Watson shared additional information regarding the grants recently awarded to Kellogg Community College and Western Michigan University for the Electric Vehicle (EV) training initiative. One portion of the grant will be used to develop a dual enrollment talent pipeline, and the second portion will be focused on advanced manufacturing for incumbent workers with business partners that include Ford, Magna, and Denso. In addition to the funding award reported by Kris Jenkins, another \$1.1 million was awarded to KCC for a smart robotic factory that will include robots and an engineering design lab that will be housed at the KCC Albion campus. The equipment has been ordered and arrival is expected by mid-December. The goal is to have the lab fully functional by mid-January. A [link to the media release](#) will be sent to members following the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS Plans

Amanda Rosenberg requested Board consideration and approval of the FY2025 Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) plan which was included in the agenda packet as Exhibit B1.

Motion made by Jill Bland and supported by Brian O'Donnell to approve the FY2025 Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) plan. Motion carried.

Annual Report

Jakki Bungart-Bibb presented the Michigan Works! Southwest 2024 Annual Report. She reported that MWSW had another very successful year, and the report is a snapshot of many of those accomplishments. She thanked staff for their support as well as Board members for their dedication and engagement throughout the year and noted that the success cannot be achieved without the involvement and support of the Board. A print copy of the annual report was provided to attendees at the meeting. A link to a digital version of the report will be emailed to

members following the meeting. The digital version includes links to videos of the accomplishments. Kathy Olsen also thanked the Board members for their time and commitment and noted that she was proud that they received the 2024 Board of Excellence Award from the Michigan Works! Association.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC TIME

No comments.

MEMBERS' TIME

Dr. Paul Watson reported that KCC will be releasing another announcement soon regarding PT programming.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Jackie Murray referred members to the list of upcoming WDB meetings that were listed on the agenda.

It was noted that the next Executive Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2024 is tentative. It will be cancelled if there is no action requiring the Board’s approval.

The next quarterly meeting of the full WDB is Thursday, February 20, 2025; the next Monitoring Committee meeting is Thursday, January 23, 2025; the next Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) meeting is Tuesday, February 13, 2025; and the next Career Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) meeting will be on a Monday in March 2025, date to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other reports or business for the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Kathy Olsen Date

Jackie Murray Date

APPROVED

These minutes were approved on _____