MICHIGAN WORKS! Southwest
Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo & St. Joseph Counties

1601 S. Burdick St, Kalamazoo, MI 49001
michiganworkssouthwest.org

Workforce Development Board
Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Workforce Development Board Chair Brian O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. at Glen Oaks Community College, 62249 Shimmel Road, Centreville, MI 49032.

WDB Members Present:

Darrin Adair (Educ)*
Jill Bland (Econ Dev)
John Fiore (RA)
Randall Hazelbaker (PS)*[V]
Jared Hoffmaster (PS)
Al Ives (PS)*
Karen Marcath (PAA)
Brian O'Donnell (PS)*
David Pawloski (Labor)[V]
David Prellwitz (Labor)
Frank Tecumseh (PS)*
Dr. Paul Watson (EDU)[V]

[V] Virtual
*Exec Committee

WDB Members Absent

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

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

Jakki Bungart-Bibb
Debbie Horn
Ashley Iovieno
Amy Meyers
Amanda Rosenberg

Guests Present

Misti Arndt (MWSW)
Riley Augst (MWSW)
Dr. Adam Cloutier (GOCC)
Director Susan Corbin (LEO)
Paige Daniels (KRESA)
Blaine Farr (WDI)[V]
Molly Fitz-Henry (KRESA)
Krista Johnson (LEO)
Heather Kevnic (LEO)
Shannon McVoy (LEO)[V]
Dr. Bryan Newton (GOCC)
Nick Owens [V]
For Rep Rogers
Lynn Page (MWSW)
Eric Pshigoda (GOCC)
Ann Marie Stafford (LEO)
Kristine Stevens (GOCC)
Amanda Sutherland (KRESA)
Jennifer Teske (MWSW)
Mark Waurio (MWSW)
Shannon Yarbrough (MWSW)[V]

INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees introduced themselves and the entities they represent.

RECOGNITION

Michigan Works! Southwest Shining Star Awards

May 2026 – Riley Augst was recognized for her exceptional dedication, flexibility, and commitment to serving customers and supporting colleagues. Since joining the MWSW Kalamazoo/St. Joseph County Welfare Reform team, Riley has demonstrated a willingness to step in wherever needed, assist coworkers, support customers, and adapt to changing needs. Her professionalism, collaborative spirit, kindness, and positive

attitude have made a meaningful impact on both her team and the individuals she serves. Riley's consistent efforts to go above and beyond reflect the spirit of the Shining Star Award and make her a deserving recipient of this recognition.
June 2026 – Shannon Yarbrough was recognized for her exceptional dedication to serving employers, commitment to customer service, and support for her colleagues. As the Going PRO Talent Fund Coordinator on the Business Solutions team, Shannon consistently provides employers with guidance, patience, and attention to detail throughout the Going PRO Talent Fund process. She builds strong relationships, responds to questions, and ensures employers receive the support they need. Shannon also demonstrates a strong commitment to teamwork by assisting colleagues, maintaining an organized and efficient approach, and contributing to a positive work environment. Her professionalism, dedication, and willingness to go above and beyond exemplify the spirit of the Shining Star Award.
July 2026 – Misti Arndt was recognized for her dedication to customer service, willingness to take on new challenges, and commitment to excellence. Since joining the organization, Misti has demonstrated initiative and flexibility by taking on new responsibilities, assisting with organizational efforts, and facilitating workshops. She consistently supports customers by listening to their employment needs, developing job leads, and connecting them with career opportunities. Misti's positive attitude, strong work ethic, and willingness to go above and beyond have made a meaningful impact on both her colleagues and customers she serves.
August 2026 – Molly Fitz-Henry was recognized for her longstanding leadership, commitment to excellence, and dedication to supporting youth and colleagues. Under her leadership, the MyCITY program has expanded to positively impact hundreds of young people across the four counties served by Michigan Works! Southwest. Molly's focus on youth voice, innovation, advocacy, and continuous improvement has helped create meaningful opportunities for young people to explore their potential and shape their futures. She is also recognized for leading with empathy, building trust, and consistently supporting and advocating for those around her. Her professionalism, dedication, and positive impact on youth, colleagues, and the community exemplify the spirit of the Shining Star Award.

TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY OF WDB DECISIONS
Debbie Horn asked members present if there were any items on the agenda for which a conflict of interest exists, and if so, the conflict should be declared at this time.
There were none.

PUBLIC TIME
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *(Exhibit A)*
Brian O'Donnell reported an amendment, not reflected in the packet, to the August 20, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting minutes that Debbie Horn would read prior to the vote. The amendment proposed is as follows: "*Jose Orozco noted the absence of Hispanic participation in the WIOA Youth demographic data. MWSW Admin staff clarified that this is only a single program and does not represent the broader multi-program demographics. MWSW Admin staff provided information on outreach efforts and offered to discuss strategies with Mr. Orozco following the meeting."*

Mr. O'Donnell asked the board to consider the minutes with the amendment, requested a vote including the amendment, and reported that the corrected minutes would be disseminated following the meeting.

Motion made by Frank Tecumseh, as amended, and supported by Jill Bland to approve the August 20, 2026, Executive Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS
None

NEW BUSINESS

WDB Plan Ratifications (*Exhibits B-G)*

Amanda Rosenberg requested Board ratification of the six workforce development plans included in the agenda packet. Details for the plans were described in the corresponding Exhibits and are listed below:

- Apprenticeship Success Coordinators (ASCs) and Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) (*Exhibit B*)
- FY2026 Michigan Industry Driven Skills Training Program (MIDSTP) *(Exhibit C)*
- FY2026 Michigan Industry Driven Skills Training Program (MIDSTP), change 1 (*Exhibit D)*
- FY2026 Going PRO Talent Fund (GPTF) Cycle 2 *(Exhibit E)*
- FY2026 Going PRO Talent Fund (GPTF) Employer-Led Collaborative (ELC) *(Exhibit F)*
- Opioid Settlement Workforce Initiative Allocations *(Exhibit G)*

Amy Meyers thanked the Board for their willingness to view and approve workforce development plans in an expedited fashion last week, noting that the State of Michigan required early approvals due to end of fiscal year procedures, which resulted in the call of a Kalamazoo Board of Commissioners meeting and led to ratifications today. Further, present Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) staff expressed appreciation for the strong partnership with Michigan Works! Associations (MWAs), local workforce partners, education and training providers, employers, labor and community organizations to ensure opportunities reach every corner of the state of Michigan.

Motion made by Al Ives and supported by Jared Hoffmaster to approve the plans as presented. Motion carried.

WDB Policy Ratification *(Exhibit H1-H2)*

Amanda Rosenberg requested Board ratification of one workforce development policy included in the agenda packet. Details for the policy were described in the corresponding Exhibit and are listed below:

- WDB Policy6R10 – Procurement and Property Management *(Exhibits H1-H2)*

Motion made by Darrin Adair and supported by Frank Tecumseh to approve the policy as presented. Motion carried.

CEAC Action Item – Membership Changes *(Exhibit I)*

Debbie Horn requested Board consideration and approval for the appointment of Sarah Mansberger, Executive Director at KRESA, to the WDB Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) for Michigan Works! Southwest to replace Cindy Goss, CTE Program Coordinator at KRESA, for the balance of a two-year term that began July 1, 2026, and ends June 30, 2028.

Ms. Horn also requested Board consideration and approval for the appointment of Lucas Schrauben, Executive Director of Career & Technical Education (CTE) at St. Joseph County Intermediate School District (ISD), to replace James Berry, Superintendent at St. Joseph County ISD, for the balance of a two-year term that began July 1, 2026, and ends June 30, 2028.

Motion made by Jared Hoffmaster and supported by Alan Ives to approve the CEAC membership changes/appointments as presented. Motion carried.

PROGRAM

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO)

Director Susan Corbin presented on behalf of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), building opportunities through strong partnerships. The presentation provided an overview of Michigan's first Statewide Workforce Plan, launched in 2024 and centered on three pillars: Skills, Opportunity, and Growth. Key highlights included Michigan's continued leadership in apprenticeships and credential attainment, expanded

access to education and training through programs such as Michigan Reconnect and the Going PRO Talent Fund, and efforts to remove barriers to employment through career navigation, transportation assistance, skills-based hiring, and vocational rehabilitation. The presentation also highlighted regional workforce initiatives involving AI and digital skills, healthcare and infrastructure apprenticeships, career exposure, and economic transition strategies. Michigan continues to invest in business growth, broadband expansion, workforce training, and emerging technologies while receiving national recognition for its workforce development efforts. Recent survey results showed strong satisfaction with Michigan Works! services, with 88% of employers reporting satisfaction and 95% indicating they would engage with Michigan Works! programs again.

Michigan Works! Southwest (MWSW)
Jakki Bungart-Bibb presented on behalf of Michigan Works! Southwest, sharing the MWSW mission to prepare a qualified workforce to meet the current and emerging needs of business and industry through data-driven decision-making. In an effort to create meaningful transformation in the people, businesses, and communities served by fostering collaborative partnerships and empowering a compassionate, respectful, and knowledgeable team dedicated to continuous improvement. Ongoing efforts include expanded branding and outreach, innovation and AI initiatives, apprenticeships, regional collaboration, and employer partnerships. From July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, MWSW hosted 113 events with 1,565 attendees, conducted 246 workshops with 845 attendees, held 404 outreach events, and engaged in 6,293 students through five career exploration events. MWSW also reported $166,974,122.63 in wages and 227,260 service center visitors. Employer-led collaboratives included healthcare, human resources, advanced IT solutions, and manufacturing, demonstrating continued efforts to strengthen partnerships and shape Southwest Michigan's workforce future.

Glen Oaks Community College (GOCC)
Dr. Bryan Newton and Dr. Adam Cloutier presented on behalf of GOCC, focusing on Workforce Development as one of the six pillars of its 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. GOCC is working to expand short-term and employer-focused training while strengthening connections between students, employers, education, and the needs of the regional economy. Glen Oaks emphasized that every student should have a clear path toward either a career or transfer to a four-year institution, with career planning beginning in their college experience. New opportunities include a CDL program to help meet the region's need for commercial drivers and a Radiologic Technology program developed in response to employer demand from Beacon Health, with the first cohort expected to begin in Winter 2027. The college is also expanding customized training, including leadership development, upskilling, and other short-term programs designed around employer needs. A strong interest was expressed in working with Michigan Works! Southwest, employers, K-12 schools, and economic development partners to identify workforce needs early, connect people with training and resources, and develop solutions that strengthen the region's talent pipeline.

OLD BUSINESS
None

PUBLIC TIME
None

MEMBERS' TIME
None

UPCOMING MEETINGS
- Full Workforce Development Board – Thursday, November 19, 2026 (9:00-10:30 a.m.)
  At a location in Calhoun County
- Executive Committee – Thursday, October 15, 2026 (9:00-10:30 a.m.)
  At the Michigan Works! Service Center, 1601 S. Burdick St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Note: After this meeting concluded, the Executive Committee Meeting was moved to The Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, M 49007

- Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) – Monday, December 7, 2026 (1:00-3:00 p.m.)
  At the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007
- Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) – Tuesday, October 20, 2026 (2:00-4:00 p.m.)
  At the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

ADJOURNMENT
There being no additional reports or business for the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m. by Brian O'Donnell.

After the meeting was adjourned, attendees stayed for a discussion at the request of Director Corbin about several challenges that may affect workforce development efforts across the region. These included changes to work requirements and unemployment insurance policies, including Medicaid, SNAP, and UI work-search requirements, as well as fluctuations in federal funding and continued regulatory uncertainty. Additionally, the discussion included the impact of an aging workforce and declining labor force participation, emphasizing the importance of attracting and retaining workers while connecting individuals with meaningful employment.

Finally, a discussion highlighted several opportunities to strengthen partnerships and improve workforce outcomes. Key areas included expanding Registered Apprenticeships and exploring ways to provide college credit for apprenticeship experiences and preparing for changes to UI registration. The continued growth of skills-based hiring and the need for employers and workforce partners to understand how AI is changing the workplace. Discussion also included the importance of workforce development and education partners working together toward the State of Michigan 60 by 30 goal and addressing literacy needs as part of broader efforts to build a stronger and more prepared workforce.

_____ _____
Debbie Horn Date Brian O'Donnell Date

APPROVED
These minutes were approved on _____