

Workforce Development Board (WDB)
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Otsego County Library, Gaylord

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 10:05 a.m.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **INTRODUCTIONS**

WDB MEMBERS PRESENT

Todd Miner
Jason Campbell
Jason Reed
Doug Baum
Heather Proctor
Katrina Burtwell
Kristi Bristley
Courtney Ryan
Mandy Daily
Brian Klele
Seth Reichard
Linda Damer (Alternate Member)

WDB MEMBERS ABSENT

Brooke Sprenger
Julie Waldron
Ilene Fanzini
Tony Ommani
Deb Larson
Sheryl Coyne

GUEST

Barbara Walden

STAFF PRESENT

Jessica Topp, Director
Ashley Udell, Business & Youth Solutions Manager
Tricia Selke, Quality Assurance Specialist
Jeanie Flory, Youth Career Advisor

IV. WDB ACTION ITEM: CONSENT AGENDA

- May 29, 2024 meeting minutes
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Four-Year Regional Plan for 2024 through 2028
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Four-Year Local Plan for 2024 through 2028

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as listed made by Brian Klele and seconded by Jason Campbell. Voted: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Meeting with partners from ACC, KCC, Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, Target Alpena, Otsego Economic Alliance, NEMCOG, and more to make connections. Please let me know if you hear of something NEMC should attend.
- BSP and Youth Program Manager is currently one manager spot, and has been since 2021. We took youth in house in 2018 and made the two spots into one in 2021 to improve youth integration, collaboration, and communication. That has since served its purpose, and the spot will be separated into two, as it originally was. Communication and collaboration are strong among these groups, funding is available for another manager at this time, and this will allow for further innovation.
- Hiring for Apprenticeship Specialist.
- Susan Corbin, Director of LEO, will be here at the next WDB meeting to present on the Statewide Workforce Plan and how it aligns with our local WIOA plan. Please plan to attend if you are able.
- Discussed day and time of meetings for 2025 scheduling purposes, as well as possible presenters. Date and time of day will remain the same. Addition of presenters is a welcome change.

VI. YOUTH UPDATE

- Through the Young Professionals grant for 2024, we were able to partner with MiSTEM and Industrial Arts Institute in Onaway for the Summer Welding Academy.
 - 5-week welding and metal fabrication program where students have the opportunity to earn an American Welding Society credential (ends 7/18).
 - Earning \$13/hr for participation.
 - NEMC staff have given presentations on employer expectations.
 - Students visited Little Trout Solar Project and Carmeuse on 6/28, heading to Boyne City to visit Daifuko, VanDam Boats, and Industrial Magnetics on 7/12.
 - 16 kids have been participating.
- Also ran our 3rd year of the Career Readiness & Exploration program.
 - 8 students participating.
 - Learned employability skills, ethics, resume writing, financial literacy. Mock interviews taking place next week.
 - Students earn up to \$250/week for participation and completion of assignments.
- Youth CAs are preparing for Jobs for Michigan's Graduates Summer Summit.
 - 3-day professional development conference.

- Updates for programming.
- JMG Affiliate (all 5 of our programs) reach 6-of-6 – this is a follow up metric that follows youth who have exited the program.
 - Includes: graduation rate, connectivity, employment, full-time employment, positive outcomes, and further education rate.
 - 3 programs reached the metric individually.

VII. BUSINESS SOLUTIONS UPDATE

- Going PRO Talent Fund cycle 2
 - Four out of six companies in our region were awarded, we are currently waiting to receive confirmation from LEO-WD that one has cleared their treasury obligation
 - Total awards for our region once that has been done = \$256,322.64
- Various Employer of the Day events have been held across the region, these continue to be lucrative for employers.
- Discussing the possibility of a Safety & Service career expo/job fair.
- Continuing to see lots of interest for on the job training for various occupations.
- Have been helping the Youth CAs to set up employer presenters for CR&E.
- Will start looking at Talent Tour opportunities for the upcoming school year.
- Working on wrapping up the Early Childcare Innovation Corporation grant – Child Care Development Specialist – NEMSCA is our employer partner.

VIII. FRONTLINE STAFF

Jeanie Flory, Youth Career Advisor (YCA), has worked with NEMC for 5 years and shared a success story with the board.

From High School Drop Out to High School Graduate in Under 4 Months

Scarlett came to Michigan Works! in February 2024 wanting to complete her education. She had heard from a friend that MW! would be able to assist her. She was adopted by her grandparents when she was 2 months old. Her grandparents did the best they could, and she was very thankful that they supported her decision to drop out of school and pursue her GED.

Scarlett had moved in with her boyfriend and his family and wasn't making enough money as a dishwasher to be able to afford to drive back and forth to school, which was 21 miles away. She had no vehicle of her own to commute with and no friends in high school. In addition, her grades weren't very good in public school, so she no longer wished to attend. But she did want to graduate.

Scarlett met with Michigan Works! Youth Career Advisor Jeanie Flory. They discussed Scarlett's goals, including her desire to be done with school within 6 months. Considering Scarlett's strong desire to complete her education in a timely manner, Jeanie referred her to Iosco RESA to complete her GED. She also enrolled Scarlett in the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates program.

Within four months, Scarlett completed her education with straight A's. She was very proud of herself, as she had struggled so much with public school. Scarlett said her Youth Career Advisor Jeanie really helped with her GED completion by going out of her way to help her, communicating frequently and

getting the ball rolling. She says she wouldn't have gotten so far in completing her GED without Jeanie's help.

Scarlett says she has come a long way since joining the Youth Program. She will be meeting her biological brother for the first time soon and may be looking to attend college in the fall to study Psychology, all of which wouldn't have been possible had she not completed her GED.

IX. MICAREERQUEST

None

X. GROUP DISCUSSION

None

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Election of one additional WDB Member from the private sector for the Executive Committee

Are there any nominations for the Executive Committee?

Doug Baum nominated *Kristi Bristley* with support from Seth Reichard.

Are there any other nominations for the Executive Committee?

No

Are there any other nominations for the Executive Committee?

No

Nominations are now closed.

Motion to approve Kristi Bristley to the Executive Committee was made by Jason Reed and supported by Mandy Daily. All voting Aye. Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XIII. ROUND TABLE

A few of the members spoke about things that are taking place within their business or organization.

Linda Damer and Doug Baum of NEMCOG spoke about the funding of tablets to help inmates finish a GED, finding employment and etc.

Todd Miner explained Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) and the 21-county district.

Jason Reed with the MRCC talked about the Class of 2025 July 18th apprenticeship

Brian Klele with the IBEW spoke about the employment opportunities that are available within the trades.

Jason Campbell with Alro Steel spoke about the importance of talent tours and how the company has open doors to any group who would like to come and see what they have to offer.

Kristi Bristley from Ryba Marine is currently searching for younger team members.

XIV. ADJOURN- 10:40 a.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jason Campbell and supported by Seth Reichard. Voted: All Ayes.

Motion carried.

Next meeting scheduled for October 9, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m., Location: Otsego County Library