**Workforce Development Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

**This meeting was held both in-person at Capital Area Michigan Works! and virtually on Zoom.**

**Present:** Dennis M. Louney (Chair), Shelly Neal (1st Vice Chair), Chris Holman, Cindy Kangas, Heidi Lowe, Janet Lillie, Jim Dravenstatt-Moceri, Laura Stoken, Matt Schneider, Nicole Fickes, Rey Guzman, Rich Howard, Robert Proctor, Sergio Keck, Su A’lyn Holbrook, Sherry Pfaff-Doody, Tom Ruis

**Absent:** Bob Trezise, Fathy Shetiah, Kathie Dunbar, Paula Cunningham, William Brewer II, William Kimble

**Secretariat:** Carrie Rosingana

**Staff:** Amanda Johnson, Becky Powers, Erin McKenzie, Genell Dorty, Jay Benitez, Leah Jones, Nick Chaffin, Robert Ramon,

Tekea Norwood, Teri Sand, Zeba Naveed

**Guests:** Kate Snyder, Kere Milow, Rachel Dauer, Tracy Tanner

**AGENDA**

**ITEM #1 WELCOME**

Dennis M. Louney calls the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

**ITEM #2 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cindt Kangas gives brief update on the upcoming Rosie day event.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* CONSENT AGENDA \*\*\*\*\* (Attachments for each item included) \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Action ITEM #3 MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2024 JOINT BOARD MEETING**

**Action ITEM #4 ACCEPTANCE OF FY2025 PARTNERSHIP. ACCOUNTABILITY. TRAINING. HOPE.**

**(PATH) TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM FUNDING**

**Action ITEM #5 ACCEPTANCE OF FY2025 TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES**

**(TANF) REFUGEE PROGRAM FUNDING**

**Action ITEM #6 ACCEPTANCE OF FY2025 PATH EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

**PROGRAM FUNDING**

**Action ITEM #7 ACCEPTANCE OF FY2025 TRADE ADJUSTMENT ACT (TAA) PROGRAM FUNDING**

**Action ITEM #8 ACCEPTANCE OF FY2025 GOING PRO TALENT CYCLE 1 FUNDING**

**Action ITEM #9 ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL CY2023 REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND**

**ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT (RESEA) FUNDING**

**Action ITEM #10 ACCEPTANCE OF AY2024 WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT**

**(WIOA) FUNDING FOR THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS INITIATIVE**

**Action ITEM #11 APPROVAL OF T3 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS**

1. Nicole Fickes – Clinton County Commissioner
2. Laura Stoken – Rathbun Insurance

25-01 Chris Holman motions to accept the consent agenda. Jim Dravenstatt-Moceri supports the

motion. The motion passes unanimously.

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**ITEM #12 HOT JOBS/RAPID RESPONSE & JOBS FILLED/JOBS POSTED**

Tekea Norwood begins by presenting the jobs filled report, noting that the Capital Area Michigan Works! Business Services Team assisted in filling 104 positions across various industry sectors. She also provides insights on the Rapid Response report. Tekea explains its significance and shares that on December 9, 2024, UofM Health Systems informed the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) Rapid Response that they will be ceasing benefits by the end of 2025 for the 119 layoffs they had in 2024.

**ITEM #13 PRESENTATION – NEW AMERICANS PROGRAMS INCLUDING MICHIGAN SKILLED**

**IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION PROGRAM (MI SIIP) – MOHIBULLAH ISRAR AND**

**EZATULLAH SHAMSZAI**

**ITEM #14 COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Rachel Dauer gives the communications update on behalf of Piper & Gold.

**ITEM #15 LEAP REPORT**

Bob Trezise was absent so there was no LEAP Report.

**ITEM #16 CEO REPORT**

Carrie begins the CEO report by giving a brief summary of the latest Labor Market

Information (LMI) report which shows the unemployment rate in Michigan at 5.0% and the

federal rate at 4.1%.

Touching on some federal updates, Carrie shares Trump appointed Lori Chavez-DeRemer's nomination as Labor Secretary was reviewed by the Senate HELP Committee on February 19, 2025. The nomination advanced to the Senate floor on February 27, receiving Democratic support. Notably, she is the first Trump Cabinet nominee to require Democratic backing due to Sen. Rand Paul's (R-Ky.) no vote. The date for the final vote is still to be determined.

The Training Employment Notice issued on February 2nd addressed DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) in the workplace, requiring entities to stop charging for specific time or activities labeled as DEI. However, this notice was canceled on February 27th due to an injunction filed on February 21st. CAMW! maintains a strong commitment to equitable access and plans to continue focusing on equity initiatives, even if they cannot be labeled as DEI. They remain dedicated to providing support and services for all individuals in need.

Shifting to some statewide and local updates, Carrie states that The Michigan Works! Association is focusing on aligning legislative priorities with the governor's recommendations, specifically requesting that the Department of LEO provide funding directly to the Michigan Works! system instead of using a Request for Proposal due to budget reductions. She also notes that there is an upcoming advocacy day that aims to highlight statewide priorities.

Carrie shares that three budget roundtables have been held, with MWA hosting one in Lansing at Capital Area Michigan Works! This was the only roundtable hosted by any MWA. Carrie discussed the utilization of BRES dollars.

Briefly circling back to the LMI report, Carrie shares that there is a notable increase in customer traffic, with reported layoffs in the community affecting engagement with the Michigan Works! services.

Moving on to some major discussions surrounding Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding allocations, Carrie begins by sharing that On December 20, 2024, planning allocations were released, indicating a 10% funding cut across all WIOA acts due to Michigan's relatively low unemployment. Michigan retains 14.7% for set-aside dollars and 2.2% for rapid response, leading to nearly a 25% total funding reduction. Carrie continues on to mention there are ongoing discussions with LEO leadership about potential reductions in set-aside amounts. No changes were confirmed at the time of the meeting on February 13th.

Carrie expressed concerns regarding unclear numbers affecting planning, especially with RFPs needing to be released for programs to be in effect by July 1st. Due to an anticipated $800,000 loss over two years, CAMW! plans to close offices in Clinton and Eaton counties to save costs, transitioning to an Affiliate Model to provide services from shared spaces instead. A special meeting of the government board was held due to budget projections, and new budget totals are being examined after receiving allocation updates.

Discussions continue about Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding, as potential cuts are anticipated. The closure of the locations in Clinton and Eaton counties is still set for July 1st, necessitating immediate action on RFPs.

**ITEM #17 MEMBER ROUNDTABLE**

**No comments for member roundtable.**

**ITEM #18 ADJOURNMENT**

**Dennis M. Louney adjourns the meeting at 8:44 am.**