



## Economic & WFD Subcommittee

### Meeting Minutes

6/7/18

8:30 – 10:00 AM

**Attendees:** Betty Beth Johns, Cassandra Wolf, Cherie Elahl, Deb Martis, Dick Bulkowski, Giuliana Fuentes, Jacob Mass, Jamon Alexander, Jennifer Summers, Marge Palmerlee, Milinda Ysai, Robert McKown, Shannon L. Harris, Shavon Doyle-Holton, Danielle Veldman Tawana Brown, Trenessa Allen, Whitney White, Alex Leger, Wende Randall, Kyle Johnson

#### I. **Welcome/Introductions**

Introductions around the room, state your name and organization.

#### II. **Housekeeping: July Meeting**

- a. Since the next meeting is scheduled on July 5<sup>th</sup>, the next meeting will be held in August.

#### III. **The Rapid Wave Card System**

- a. The Wave card is an account-based card, so the value lies in the account and not the physical card. Cards can be purchased online, at the station, and in the future many retail outlets. Businesses or organizations will be able to handle their own accounts they can manage. Instead of buying a ride, with the new card you are buying time. A client will have 105 minutes to use as many transfers within that period. To be more equitable, once the daily, weekly, monthly caps are met the client is riding are no extra cost. The card-based system will eventually phase out, depending on how popular the Wave is.

#### IV. **Best Practices Scorecard Project**

- a. The findings will be available on Trello and e-mail.

#### V. **Update from Talent 2025**

- a. Key performance indicators are increasing the quality and quantity of work and life. Barriers are found to be childcare, transportation, education, and substance abuse. Talent 2025 told employers to look at their drug testing policy to see if it makes sense. For transportation they are looking at models that can be replicated in Kent County. A promising model is Wheels to Work. Childcare-availability and affordability have reduced. The goals are to improve the sustainability of providers, increase access for families, and enhance quality of care. Education and skills- Looking for best practices and conducting phone interviews with organizations that have tried similar programs. Employer role must be increasing to increase to for example the literacy of workers. Workforce diversity, equity, and inclusion- CEO commitment, Benchmark survey, "Pivot" Employer toolkit, leadership events. 66 out of 115 CEO's have signed on to commit to these principles outlined in the presentation. Best practices are encouraged to reach out to Whitney White. A participant brought up that some of the organizations they sought

out to find best practices are contributing to a “campaign against the poor” so she would like to see a full list.

VI. **Action Teams Discuss Equity Toolkit**

- a. Participants were asked to divide into groups since all members of the action teams are not present.
- b. Comments brought to the larger group- Getting feedback at trainings, getting input and clearly defining what it is. Elevating the discourse around looking at the environment around people when they are not performing instead of looking at character flaws. A disconnect between high and mid-level management and bringing everyone to the same level.

VII. **Organizational Updates**

- a. Medical apprenticeship- a one-year program, 18 years old, GED or equivalent. Disability advocates- advocacy workshop, ADA celebration July 23<sup>rd</sup>. UComm-hosting financial literacy session Wednesdays in June 5:30-8. Cesar Chavez farmers’ markers opening June 16<sup>th</sup>. North Kent Connect- farm stand going mobile.

VIII. **Adjourn**

Reminder: send out a reminder to complete scorecard before august meeting

Next Meeting: To be discussed 8:30-10:00 West Michigan Works! 215 Straight Ave.