

05/3/2018 8:30-10:00

Economic & Workforce Development

West Michigan Works! Complex

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: From Sign-in Sheet

Adrienne Goodstal, Betty Beth Johns, Cassandra Wolf, Cheri Elahl, Daniel VanderMolen, Deb Martis, Dick Bulkowski, Jamon Alexander, Jennifer Summers, Jeremy DeRoo, John VanElst, Lisa M Derr, Michelle Bryk, Robert Mckown, Shawn Arapovich, Tony Calcagno, Trinity Clemens, Wende Randall, Tawana Brown

Welcome/Introduction & Question

- a. Your name, organization; vegetable/animal/mineral?
    - i. Split into groups for introduction
  - b. Ranking activity
    - i. Activity presented to the groups. Steering committee came up with activities/ learning opportunities. Attendees are welcome to bring best practices to respective activities/ learning opportunities.
- II. Action Team 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Steps and Deliverables
- a. Attendees asked to break into Action Teams (Equity, System Navigators, Engaging External Systems, Measuring System Success, Communicating System Resources)
  - b. Groups receive Action Plan from previous meeting. Questions on the sheet relate to steps for action plan in second quarter.
- III. Alignment Updates (Talent 2025, K-Connect, Data Retreat)
- a. Talent 2025 Meeting- Purpose of the meeting was to try and eliminate duplication. Talent 25 is interested in data on account of them not having the capacity to do deep dives. Workforce development goals will be talked about from T25 Rep at next meeting.
  - b. K-Connect- Partners convening in a couple weeks. Lead convening partners met to make sure alignment is effective throughout the community. Objectives mapped out to see how to serve the community (ex. childcare). Where do objectives intersect? Melinda- Quality of life measurement does not stop at graduation. Children need to be included with right inputs to measure quality of life for all ages. Potential opportunity for doulas to help with self-efficacy for mothers to benefit children. Program is at an inchoate stage but is hoping to promote entrepreneurship. Interested attendees are welcome to come forward.
  - c. Data Retreat- Make sure to have representation for data processes leaders to make concrete decisions. Most essential information will come in the beginning of leaders have to leave early.
- IV. Legislative Issues
- a. Work requirements for Medicaid recipients- State legislation passed Senate and brought to the House. Certain political voices propose that if an individual receives Medicaid that they should work for this assistance.

- i. Challenges include a 29 hours/week. Part-time workers usually do not have the agency to negotiate hours. Another potential challenge is the age requirement would change from 62 to 64. Another state that had a similar program conceded the costs were more than anticipated.
    - b. Chamber of Commerce supports legislation to spur employment but support a 20 hour workweek. The bill is likely to pass the House but the Governor does not support this but will have to boon public opinion.
    - c. Is this bill data driven or political? Gallup polls indicate 51% working aged adults not working have opiate prescriptions. 20-30 million dollars to implement this bill. Funding could funnel money from social services. Talent 2025 is not taking a position with this issue at this time. Robert McKown voiced that legislators pay attention to numbers in terms of letters and calls. Individuals or organizations are encouraged to voice their opinion if they have the resources.
- V. West MI Works! Bio-Digester Project Update
  - a. Last month summary- Muskegon employers are seeing the value of diversifying workforce in nontraditional jobs (i.e. construction) and are looking in urban core rather than candidates found in rural areas (i.e. white). Urban League sent a representative in Muskegon to drum up interest in construction job. 36 new-generation construction workers have been hired from the Muskegon project. City of Grand Rapids, as a city rich in non-profits and social services, also saw this opportunity to diversify the workforce in construction and manufacturing fields. The Workplace Excellence series is to be implemented to put employees through apprenticeship programs. A sign out sheet was passed out for interested partner organizations as the project is looking for spaces to hold "job fairs." The scope of the project extends to all counties but transportation is necessary (In Muskegon car pool was a best practice for this problem). Also a pitch for an apprenticeship program for 18-24 year olds for increasing diversity (POC & Women).
- VI. Organizational Updates
  - a. Literacy Center having celebration dinner week of May 7th. The Hispanic Center has gala on May 12<sup>th</sup>, tickets still available. The Hispanic Center has summer education programs for STEM and employment services. Rock the Block is June 9<sup>th</sup>. Organizations can connect with clients and programs. Grand Circus looking for employees with scholarship.
- VII. Adjourn 10:00
- VIII. Next Meeting:  
Thursday, June 7, 2018  
8:30-10:00  
West Michigan Works!  
214 Straight Ave.