



Economic & Workforce Development  
Meeting Minutes  
December 8, 2017  
8:30am – 10:00am

**Attendees:**

Angela Hodges (DAKC), Chad Patton (Literacy Center of West MI), Dale Dieleman (CompRenew), Daniel VanderMolen (Goodwill), Jacob Maas (West MI Works), Jessica White-Hatinger (West MI Works), John Gill (West MI Works), John VanElst (GRCC), Lisa M Derr (GR Urban League), Lynda Sweigart (Hope Network), Patricia Murray (Flat River Outreach), Robert McKown (United Way), Shavon Doyle-Holton (IPS), Wende Randall (ENTF), Debbie Nelson (Goodwill), Bree Butler (ENTF), Cassaundra Bell (DAKC), DeDe Esque (IPS), Erin Skidmore (Access of West MI), Juan Rosario (Friend of the Court), Jordan Daley (Calvin College for the Center of Social Research), Amanda Merrill (Goodwill), Joyce Williams (Pine Rest), Trenessa Allen (GR Housing Commission), Shannon Harris (City of GR – Our Communities Together), Jennifer Summers (Literacy Center of West MI), Dick Bulkowski (Steepletown), Bree Butler (ENTF)

**I. Welcome/Introduction & Question**

- a. Your name, organization; How does the weather impact the work you do or the people you serve?

**II. Basic Needs Index Introduction**

When KConnect formed 5 years ago they wanted to work towards improving childhood development from cradle to career in Kent County. ENTF was already working on addressing basic needs, therefore KConnect approached ENTF to be the basic needs workgroup. The Economic & Workforce Development group has a set of a set of success measures and indicators. It needs to be decided which indicators should be presented to KConnect, so they can be included in their index. This will be discussed further at the January meeting. There will be some tie-in between the indicators and heading into our second year of work.

There is a series of drafts for success measures and indicators that will be posted to Trello.

**III. Employment Services Collaborative (ESC) Update & Best Practices**

New people have been attending the meetings and the work is growing, this trend is hopefully going to continue in 2018. Employment Services Collaborative (ESC) is in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of service. When getting started, there was a conversation around who to include in the collaborative. The key target was the ALICE population, with a main goal of increasing income. Also work on filling service gaps. Works with traditional services, organizations, and others to fill service gaps. The focus of the ESC is building relationships, assist participants in navigating systems, avoid the duplication of services, upskilling and career laddering, as well as education and training. This is accomplished with a commitment to work together, partners with areas of expertise, partner navigators, case conferencing, warm introductions (navigator will go with individual to each step), shared systems. Opportunities and successes include increased efficiency of referrals, better connection to community resources, increased capacity to serve diverse populations

2016/2017 Results:

New participants served - 684, number of service encounters - 6075, individuals starting employment - 213. Halfway through, a lot has been learned and through the relationships that come along with collaboration there is an opportunity for innovative ideas and problem solving.



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Originally started by tracking 90-day employment, now tracking 180 and 365-day employment. It is a plan to start tracking pay rate. The next phase of the build out is to add income tracking and financial modeling. This kind of aid process is long because it involves training and skill building. Integrated support is available to help manage the unique stresses of working full time and learning new routines. These issues will hopefully be identified during case conferencing.

**IV. Equity Action Team**

Teams gathered and discussed mission, vision, and values. (5 minutes)

Teams then discussed where their organization is on the KConnect Equity Tool. (5 minutes)

Action teams then discussed their organization's pain points and strengths in how it implements services across the KConnect Equity Tool. (5 minutes)

The take-away thought of today's conversation is: What other meetings or groups are you having equity and engagement conversations with? Members are encouraged to think about this before the next meeting.

**V. Year 2 Objectives World Café**

2018 Strategic Planning will operate in a "World Café" style. Action teams sit each team to a table. One team member will stay at each team's table. There will be five-minute rounds where other members are encouraged to move around. Feedback is encouraged and will be gathered and emailed to each team. It is suggested that this be sent out to each action team and they can reflect at length before the next meeting. There is at least one round of initial feedback for 10 minutes.

**VI. Steering Team Vote**

Members were given the link to an online voting form to vote for candidates as well as anyone they would like to nominate themselves.

**VII. Adjourn**