



Economic and Workforce Development Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2020

8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Chad Patton		
Meeting Attendees:	Adrienne Goodstal, BettyBeth Johns, Bill Kirk, Chad Patton, Claudia Pohlen, Colene Johnson, Daniel VanderMolen, De'Ondre Hogan, Erin Donnelly, Giuliana Fuentes, Jamon Alexander, Jayme Vosovic, Jennifer Summers, Jeran Culina, Jodi Petersen, Jose Cummings, Joyce Lewis-Rohrer, Juan Rosario, Kristen Sobolewski, Lawrence Kloth, Lisa Venema, Lorena Aguayo-Marquez, Monica Light, Niesa Nelson, Sara Proano-Motta, Sarah Laman, Sharlene Organ, Tawana Brown, Tony Calcagno, Wafa Haddad, Yena Kim, Wende Randall, Emily Madsen <i>(List may not be complete- please contact Brianna if you were on the call but are not listed here.)</i>		
Time Convened:	8:33	Time Adjourned:	10:03

Introductions	
Child Care Advocacy Update	Jeran Culina and Kristen Sobolewski
Discussion	
<p>Jeran Culina, Education Project Manager with Talent2025, presented on the problems with child care: access, affordability, and quality. She also summarized the barriers identified by providers in a recent survey, explained Talent2025's current policy priorities for child care, and shared information about funds related to child care in the State's new FY2021 budget.</p> <p>Kristen Sobolewski, Shared Services Pilot Project Manager with First Steps Kent, presented on the formation of the Kent Child Care Crisis Response Team in March 2020 to support both childcare providers and families needing childcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also gave an overview of the challenges child care businesses are facing during this time, an update on what the Team has accomplished in the past six months, and the following calls to action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge and partner with local child care business owners (center and home-based) • Advocate for the child care industry as a VITAL industry. "Michigan works when child care works" • Shared Services Pilot Project is looking to partner with local businesses to source cleaning and sanitizing supplies for child care providers (Clorox wipes, Food grade disinfectant, etc) • Shared Services Pilot Project is looking to partner with local business experts to provide business technical assistance to providers • Support child care for working families – Child Care Aware of America https://childcareworks.org/take-action/support-child-care-for-working-families/ 	
Euzen Connect	De'Ondre Hogan
Discussion	
<p>De'Ondre Hogan with Euzen Connect provided an overview of how Euzen uses artificial intelligence (AI) to connecting job seekers to employment. Their multi-lingual, SMS text-based intake process is accessible to almost everyone in the community because it does not require a computer with internet or smartphone with data. Their closed-loop and long-term model involves weekly check-ins and proactive support for at least 12 months. Several local employers are already using their job board. For more information, visit their website at https://www.euzenconnect.ai/ or have clients text "CONNY" to (616)236-5858 (English) or "CONSUELO" to (616)236-5141 (Spanish) to be directly connected to the appropriate AI assistant.</p>	



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Election 2020: Voting Process Overview	Jayne Vosovic
Discussion	
<p>Jayne Vosovic with the Michigan League for Public Policy gave an overview of the voting process for the upcoming presidential election. She provided the following resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michigan Voter Information Center: https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Home/Index • Kent County Elections Drop Box & Polling Locations (info on all cities and townships within Kent County): https://www.accesskent.com/Departments/Elections/polling_locations.htm • ACLU of Michigan Voting Rights: https://www.aclumich.org/en/issues/voting-rights • Wende Randall currently has printed copies of the Know Your Rights Guide in English and Spanish (and will soon have Arabic). Contact her to make arrangements for having these dropped off at your location (wrandall@hwmuw.org). The Guide is also available for download at https://www.michiganvoting.org/. 	
Theory of Change Process and Timeline	Wende Randall
Discussion	
<p>Wende Randall shared that ENTF held a convening on 9/30/2020 to unveil its new Strategy and Implementation Plan. Staff will now begin working with Jodi Petersen to facilitate the drafting of a theory of change for the Economic and Workforce Development Subcommittee (WFD). The WFD Steering Committee will be reviewing the draft this month and bringing an update back to the full Subcommittee in November.</p>	
Community Partner Updates	
Discussion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLPP is hosting the 2020 Policy Forum: White Laws, Black Lives, and the Need to See Color, with keynote speaker Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, on October 5. • West Michigan Works! is seeing lower than normal utilization of their services and is looking to connect with more clients. If you have an event they can attend or other ways to help them get the word out, please contact Juan Rosario at jrosario@westmiworks.org. • KDL is giving away books! They have a community bash on October 17 but are also making books available to partners before and after. If interested, contact Sara Proano at sproano@kdl.org. • GRCC is hosting virtual information sessions on the Michigan Futures for Frontliners scholarship (https://www.grcc.edu/futuresforfrontliners). They are encouraging frontline workers to start applying now. The application deadline is 12/31/2020, but the process requires navigating at three different systems: the State for the actual scholarship, the Federal government for FAFSA, and the college for enrolling in classes. • ENTF is hosting a Community Care Circle with Shannon Cohen on October 14. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpf-itpzlvE9Y3UFdiT9NVPd3tn7dkOXdk 	