

Council for Labor & Economic Growth
Accelerating Re-Employment/Workforce System Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 2, 2006
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Matthew Chambers, Chair
Doyle Hayes
Mitzi King (via phone)
Alan Low
Gene Pierce
William Peterson
Trenda Rusher
Mary Thornton (via phone)
Holliace Spencer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tom Hickner
Mike Zelle
Lynn Zuellig

COMMITTEE STAFF:

Sue Ann Searles
Marti Welsh

GUEST

John Waller

Mr. Matt Chambers, Committee Chair, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Introductions of meeting participants followed.

Mr. John Waller, Departmental Specialist, stated a modification of the State Workforce Investment Plan is required to reflect the recent negotiated levels of performance for our State, and also to reflect the change in the current Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser designee.

The WIA regulations require that the expected levels of performance for adults, dislocated workers, and youth be included in the State Workforce Investment Plan. The performance accountability system allows states and the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) to assess the effectiveness of state and local areas in achieving continuous improvement of workforce investment activities. There are seventeen state performance measures. The core indicators of performance for the adult, dislocated worker and older youth populations served include:

- Entry into unsubsidized employment;
- Retention in unsubsidized employment six months after entry into the employment;
- Earnings received in unsubsidized employment six months after entry into the employment; and
- Attainment of a recognized credential relating to achievement of education skills.

The core indicators of performance for the younger youth population served include:

- Attainment of basic skills and, as appropriate, work readiness or occupational skills;
- Attainment of secondary school diplomas and their recognized equivalents; and
- Placement and retention in postsecondary education or advanced training, or

placement and retention in military service, employment, or qualified apprenticeships.

The law declares that states will be held accountable for collecting and reporting measures of employer and participant customer satisfaction.

The State, as required by WIA regulations, submitted proposed levels of performance to USDOL. Regional offices of USDOL reviewed the proposed performance levels and negotiated with the State and mutually agreed upon performance levels for Program Year 2006 (July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007). Adult Average Earnings for Six Months and Dislocated Worker Average Earnings for Six Months were the two changes from the previous program year.

Several questions were asked regarding how the state of Michigan ranks as compared to other states. Mr. Waller explained that Michigan has met or exceeded it's levels of performance for the past several years, and the negotiated percentages are on the higher end to reflect this.

In addition to the modification to include the changes in performance measures, the recent retirement of Irma Zuckerberg and appointment of Bob Swanson as department director has changed the WIA and Wagner-Peyser to Mr. Swanson.

A MOTION was made and SUPPORTED to approve the modification to the State Workforce Investment Plan to the full Council at the September 12, 2006 meeting.

Ms. Trenda Rusher provided an update on the presentation of SOLUTIONS at the recent Michigan Works! Agency (MWA) Director's Council meeting. Ms. Rusher stated the presentation was well received, and Director's were provided with the necessary materials. Ms. Rusher also stated a form would be sent around at the August Director's Council meeting as a "check-in" on which MWAs have signed on.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Governor endorsement letter. Mr. Chambers indicated he is willing to initiate outreach to the Governor's Office and/or Governor herself on the endorsement, but would prefer the proper channels through the Department of Labor & Economic Growth. The letter would be forwarded to Ms. Marcia Black-Watson to be sent through the appropriate route of communication to the Governor. Ms. Rusher stated she would initiate a phone call to Bob Swanson to help expedite the process.

The Committee discussed reaching out to other members of the Council for their assistance in gaining support of SOLUTIONS through organizations they are affiliated with. Such organizations could include:

- Michigan Hospital Association
- Michigan Home Healthcare Association
- Michigan State Medical Society

- Michigan High School Athletic Association
- Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals
- Michigan Education Association
- Association of Chamber Executives
- Michigan Economic Development Association
- National Electrical Contractors Association

A second email would be sent out with a more targeted approach and would be more sector oriented. Marti Welsh and Sue Ann Searles will draft the necessary email from Matt Chambers and corresponding email for Committee members. In the interim, the original documents would be resent to Committee members.

A conference call meeting was scheduled for August 28, 2006, from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. to finalize the SOLUTIONS signing event.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.