Council for Labor & Economic Growth
Quarterly Meeting
Lansing Community College West Campus, MTEC- Conference Center
Monday, December 8, 2008
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Adams	Eric Gilbertson	Stanley "Skip" Pruss
Derick Adams	Doyle Hayes	James Roberts
Senator Glenn Anderson	Timothy Herman	Trenda Rusher
Lizabeth Ardisana	Tom Hickner	Carlos Sanchez
Paul Arsenault	Robert Jacquart	Cunesha Sanders
Stephen Balbierz	Eleanor Josaitis	Michael Schmidt
Paul Bergan	Janet Joseph	Jaye Shamsiddeen
Lloyd Bingman	Sue Koseck	Kester So
Harry Bonner	Karen Kosniewski	Marge Sorge
Matt Chambers	Ken Laubert	Ryan Swartz
Representative Ed Clemente	Frank Lopez	Mary Thornton
Frank Cloutier	Timothy Nelson	Mitch Tomlinson
David Eisler	Donald O'Connell	Michael Zelley
Fern Espino	Sharon Parks	Lynn Zuellig
Michael Evangelista	Sharon Claytor Peters	
Mark Gaffney	Daniel Phelen	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Wilma Abney	Norma Hagenow	Janet Olszewski
Ismael Ahmed	John Hernandez	Gene Pierce
Ted Blashak	Representative Bill Huizenga	Hubert Price
Patrick Cannon	John James	Sharon Rivera
Jennifer Cornell	Jumana Judeh	Phil Thompson
James Epolito	Thomas Kimble	John Van Wyck
Mike Flanagan	Jack Litzenberg	John Voorhorst
Senator Judson Gilbert	Alan Low	Cindy Warner
Patrick "Shorty" Gleason	Shelly Norman-Hill	

I. WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS

Ms. Marge Sorge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., welcomed Council members, and introduced new CLEG Members in attendance for the first time. New members introduced include Representative Ed Clemente, of Lincoln Park, State Representative from the 14th District, Frank Cloutier, Public Relations Manager for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, Mark Gaffney, President of the Michigan State AFL-CIO, Timothy Herman, CEO of the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce, Sue Koseck, GVP of Global Power Human Potential with TAQA New World, Inc., Ken Laubert, Director of the UAW Skilled Trades Department, Donald O'Connell, Director of Labor Management for the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 324, Stanley "Skip" Pruss, Director of DLEG, James Roberts, President of Jim Roberts Enterprises, Carlos Sanchez, Executive Director of the Grand Rapids Housing Commission, Cunesha Sanders, Director of the Detroit Job Corps Center, Ryan Swartz, Professional Healthcare Representative for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. Phil Thompson, Executive Vice President of Service Employees International Union Local 517m was also recently appointed to the Council, but unable to attend today's meeting.

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Ms. Sorge announced that we are welcoming DLEG's new director, Skip Pruss to the Council and he will talk about the Governor's plans to reorganize the department with a new focus on energy. On behalf of the Council Ms. Sorge wished former DLEG Director Keith Cooley well in his new responsibilities as CEO of NextEnergy.

II. ACTION ITEMS

The action items on the consent agenda include approval of the following:

- September 9, 2008 quarterly meeting minutes

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcd/FINAL_September_9_Meeting_Minutes_259443_7.pdf

- 2009 CLEG quarterly meeting schedule

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcd/2009_CLEG_Meeting_Schedule_-_FINAL_259441_7.pdf

A MOTION was made by CLEG member Fern Espino, and SUPPORTED by CLEG member Tim Herman to approve the consent agenda action items.

A MOTION was made by CLEG member Mike Zelley, and SUPPORTED by CLEG member Dan Phelan to approve the 2009 quarterly meeting schedule.

III. DLEG UPDATE

Director Pruss gave an overview of Governor Granholm's executive order that will reorganize DLEG into the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG) on December 28th, 2008. The reason for this transformation is that the energy sector is believed to be the greatest economic opportunity Michigan has in the foreseeable next several decades. The energy sector is believed to be more robust than the internet was in the 1990s, and the early entrants and the aggressive actors who accelerate their activities in this sector will have many benefits. The opportunity is so abundant that we are in a competition with every state and the world for advanced energy development. Director Pruss reported that $20 trillion will be spent by the year 2030 in energy infrastructure and the focus of that expenditure now is in a different area, not just traditional forms of energy, as the country is heading toward clean forms of energy. The creation of jobs and diversification of Michigan's economy is the first reason for this aggressive movement toward energy; and the second is national security, energy security. Climate change is also a third reason for this shift. Michigan will accelerate efforts in every sector. Director Pruss discussed the energy job opportunities that Michigan will explore including solar energy, wind energy, and advanced energy storage technology. He reported that the new DELEG is aligning programs and policies, resources and tools, tax incentives and job creation, workforce and job training capabilities and methodically building relationships to have this opportunity happen in Michigan.

Director Pruss took questions from the audience.

Q: With discussion of numbers of jobs in the industry sector in Germany and in the state of Colorado, where does Michigan sit today?

A: Director Pruss could not give a definitive answer; however, he reported that Michigan is working with 15 other states on a project to get a good solid number to serve as a baseline in which to measure our progress. There are an estimated 12,000 to 40,000 people working in rural energy sectors, in energy efficiency either directly or indirectly. He further reported that this ambition is huge.

If we were to implement the Center for American Progress' plan, which is the policy development organization for the Obama administration and make the kinds of investments the Obama administration is talking about, we could create 60,000 jobs in the renewable energy sector in the next two years. So, this is a huge opportunity.

Q: One of the problems we have in the unemployment rate is we still have job opportunity that cannot be filled due to unskilled workforce, is that problem being addressed?

A: Yes, that number is around 78,000, but we have to systematically move people into those sectors.
Q: Have you had any conversations with the academics or industry in terms of the kinds of unique skills needed in our workforce that our Michigan Works system or our academic system needs to know about?

A: Yes. The plan we are producing is a demand driven plan for workforce development. We are going to the business that will have opportunity, and we are strategically training our workforce to those opportunities.

Q: What do you see as CLEG's role in the area of energy excellence and what can we expect as outcomes?

A: In terms of process, we need to continue to communicate and collaborate and figure out what that opportunity is.

Q: When will we see any realignment of state resources to support the vision of increased job opportunities in the renewable alternative energy sector?

A: This executive order creating DELEG is effective on December 28, 2008 and we are bringing people over from the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Agriculture and will immediately being realign to work toward the vision.

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IV. ACTION ITEM

Final Recommendation:
Setting State Adult Learning Policy – Presentation and Recommendations from the Low Wage Worker Advancement Committee/Adult Learning Work Group

Sharon Parks opened with discussion about the Adult Learning Work Group's progress. She reported that since March, 2008, the Low-Wage Worker Advancement Committee has been working through its Adult Learning Work Group with a focus on their mission; which is to *Examine and provide recommendations for transformation of Michigan's approach to basic skills development, in order to better meet the needs of adult learners, employers, and the state in an ever-changing economy*. This broad based group includes various practitioners from around the state and from different constituencies. They have gathered data, conducted research, learned about promising practices, and talked with various stakeholders including 200 attendees at seven regional forums. Ms. Parks reported that the presenters will outline what this transformation must look like and ask for feedback and adoption of the concept. She introduced the first presenter, Deputy Director Andy Levin.

The following link is the PowerPoint used in this presentation.
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcd/FINAL_Final_Transforming_Michigans_Adult_Learning_Infrastructure_for_120808_259429_7.pdf

Deputy Director Levin gave a detailed overview of the report provided by the Adult Learning Workgroup and discussed its recommendations, key assumptions and the specific actions that will be taken to accomplish the goals.

The following link is the report from CLEG's Low Wager Worker Advancement Committee's Adult Learning Workgroup, entitled "Transforming Michigan's Adult Learning Infrastructure"
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcd/ALWG_report_to_CLEG_1208_259427_7.pdf

Adriana Nichols and Katie Wolf further detailed recommendations two through seven and discussed the specific actions that need to be taken to accomplish these goals.

Andy Levin thanked Mitch Tomlinson and Sharon Parks, the two members of CLEG that led this effort. It was a huge undertaking with three other departments along with DLEG. He asked members of the adult learning workgroup to stand and be acknowledged for their work. Deputy Director Levin opened the floor for questions and comments.

Q: Is the chart of funding sources complete with all of the funding opportunities for people with disabilities, or do we need to look further for more of those funding opportunities? And do we need to do more work for funding opportunities for people in the state with ESL (English as a Second Language)?

A: Deputy Director Levin answered that the funding issue is critical in this process. We are transforming the adult education system, not developing a new one, so we are not looking at new dollars, we are coordinating dollars. Part of the recommendation of this group is to do a complete and thorough audit of the funding sources. There are some exciting new funding potential. In terms of ESL and the whole funding issue, yes, we do need to find more funding. And the key is to create the architecture and the system that is ready to serve everyone, because we don't currently have the funding to serve everyone, but when we do, the system will already be in place.

Q: Don't we need to bring business to the table to find out what their needs are in this process?

A: Deputy Director Levin answered that yes, business definitely needs to be a partner in the adult learning process, so the vocational training is applicable to the needs of the businesses in need of employees.

Q: It was asked/suggested that we not only use a career pathway, but also use the systems being used by the K-12 schools for tracking; EDP (educational development plan) and the UIC (universal individual code) used from Kindergarten through graduation tracks a student and his/her progress. This would offer a tracking mechanism for those in the adult learning system.

A: Deputy Director Levin answered that that is precisely our goal and that Florida is using a pre K-20 educational data warehouse system that we can use to create our data tracking system. We will use a very similar process of for data tracking.

Q: Please amplify the meaning of contextualized learning.

A: Adriana Nichols used the example of the initiative being used by community colleges called Breaking Through, which takes the adult learner through a process of learning a skill in the context of the job, using the skills in the work world. Mott Community College has taken the lead in contextualized learning in the classroom for many different industries.

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Q: How do you define a family-sustaining job?

A: A family sustaining job is a job with wages and benefits that would allow a family to not live in poverty and is considered by experts to be around 200% of the poverty level.

Mitch Tomlinson thanked those responsible for the 'behind the scenes' work done in this project; the Michigan League for Human Services and the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce as well as DLEG staff. He asked for a round of applause to recognize all the hard work done by these groups.

Mr. Tomlinson asked for a vote in favor of the recommendations presented today by the Low-Wage Worker Advancement Committee and Adult Learning Workgroup.

A MOTION was made by CLEG member Trenda Rusher, and SUPPORTED by CLEG member ??? to approve the Final Recommendation of the Low-Wage Worker Advancement Committee/Adult Learning Workgroup for Setting State Adult Learning Policy as presented today.

V. INDUSTRY SECTOR COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Mr. Derick Adams discussed the preliminary recommendations of the Industry Sector Committee, outlined in their report, "Tackling Michigan's Manufacturing Image".
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcd/Industry_Sector_Report_Draft_Dec_2_259438_7.pdf

Mr. Adams talked about the committee's charge and detailed the work the committee has done and the recommendations it will bring to the next CLEG meeting.

Ms. Candice Elders, of Michigan Works! Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties, talked about Southwestern Michigan's experience and the Dream It Do It campaign, a component of the committee's recommendation.

Mr. John Metts of Dowding Industries discussed manufacturers' needs in their future employees and emphasized the importance of partnerships between community colleges and employers citing examples of how they both benefit from such partnerships.

Mr. Adams asked the employers who were present, and involved in the Advanced Manufacturing Taskforce, to stand and be recognized for the work they have done in this effort.

In closing, Mr. Adams talked about the next steps of the Industry Sectors Committee. He reported that the committee will prepare a recommendation to be voted on at the next CLEG meeting.

VI. ACTION ITEM

Entrepreneurship Committee Recommendation

Ms. Sorge introduced Tim Nelson and Fern Espino, to present the Entrepreneurship Committee's recommendations. Mr. Nelson talked about the committee's charge, the methods by which the committee collected information, the committee's vision and its core recommendations. Ms. Espino further discussed the seven recommendations.

The following link is a PowerPoint presentation of the Entrepreneurship committee's report.
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcd/Entrepreneurship_Committee_Report_-_long_version_259434_7.pdf

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Mr. Nelson asked Council Members to approve the recommendations of the Entrepreneurship Committee.

A MOTION was moved by CLEG member Dan Phelan, and SUPPORTED by CLEG member Senator Glenn Anderson to approve the Entrepreneurship Committee Recommendation as presented.

VII. PREVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Deputy Director Andy Levin announced that a Council-wide strategic planning session will be held after the lunch break and he invited all council members to participate to discuss the direction CLEG will take in the next year. He reported that with the national global economic crisis, the auto-industry situation, and the change of DLEG to DELEG, we will discuss how CLEG will be involved in the change and what CLEG's charges will be.

Deputy Director Andy Levin introduced the Director of the State's Rapid Response Unit, Chong-Anna Canfora and the Grants and External Relations Specialist for workforce activities, Jennifer Tebedo. He also reported that Marcia Black-Watson has been promoted from being his special assistant to Deputy Director of the Bureau of Workforce Transformation, so he proudly introduced his new special assistant, Debbie Huntley.

Deputy Director Levin introduced Mariam Baker of Region 5 US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration to talk briefly about RIGs and NEGs. Mariam brought some information on Regional Innovation Grants and National Emergency Grants. She talked briefly about the two grant opportunities.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT/CLOSING REMARKS

Council members were encouraged to fill out the evaluations to aid in the development of future meeting agendas. The next CLEG meeting is on Monday, March 2, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Lansing Community College MTEC.

There being no further business, Ms. Sorge adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the information in these minutes will be made in alternative format (large type, audio tape, etc.) upon request.

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