

Council for Labor & Economic Growth
Quarterly Meeting
Lansing Community College West Campus, MTEC- Conference Center
Monday, June 4, 2007
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Derick Adams	Norma Hagenow	William Peterson
Lizabeth Ardisana	Doyle Hayes	Daniel Phelan
Paul Arsenault	John Hernandez	Gene Pierce
Kenneth Baker	Thomas Hickner	Hubert Price, Jr.
Stephen Balbierz	Robert Jacquart	Trenda Rusher
George Bennett	John James	Jaye Shamsiddeen
Paul Bergan	Eleanor Josaitis	Kester So
Lloyd Bingman, Ph.D.	Janet Joseph	Mary Thornton
Ted Blashak	Thomas Kimble	Mitch Tomlinson
Patrick Cannon	Jack Litzenberg	Marianne Udow
Matthew Chambers	Frank Lopez	John Van Wyck
Keith Cooley	Alan Low	John Voorhorst
Jennifer Cornell	Timothy Nelson	Cindy Warner
James Epolito	Shelley Norman-Hill	George Yost
Fern Espino, Ph.D.	Janet Olszewski	J. Michael Zelle
Michael Flanagan	Sharon Parks	Lynn Zuellig
Patrick Gleason		

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Wilma Abney*	David Eisler	Phillip Power
David Binkley	Dennis Hands	Sharon Rivera
Harry Bonner, Sr.	George Heartwell	Sen. Alan Sanborn
Antoon Brusselmans	Rep. Bill Huizenga	Michael Schmidt
Matt Brynildson	Mitzi King	Patricia Shimmens
Rep. Ed Clemente	Juan Mestas	Marjorie Sorge
Bradley Dyer	Sharon Peters	Sen. Samuel "Buzz" Thomas

*Excused due to technical difficulties when conferencing in

I. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Mitch Tomlinson, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed the Council members. Council Chair Marge Sorge was unable to attend due to a prior commitment out of the country. Mr. Tomlinson acknowledged Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) Director Keith Cooley, DLEG Deputy Director Andy Levin, and Ms. Coffiann Hawthorne, Deputy Legal Counsel and Policy Advisor from the Governor's Office. Mr. Tomlinson welcomed new Council members Cindy Warner, Thomas Kimble, Paul Bergan, George Bennett, and Paul Arsenault. Two new House

Speaker appointments, Representative Ed Clemente and Representative Bill Huizenga were unable to attend.

Ms. Sue Ann Searles, Workforce Specialist, Advisory Administration Unit (AAU), DLEG, provided a brief presentation on the Council for Labor & Economic Growth (CLEG) website. Council members are encouraged to share reports of interest and links to be included on the website. The site will include biographical information for those members who have submitted it. Members who have not yet done so are asked to send a bio to CLEG staff for inclusion on the website.

Mr. Tomlinson stated that due to the budget crisis within our state, state-funded refreshments at board and commission meetings have been eliminated. He then acknowledged Ms. Sorge and her company Metaldyne for providing lunch, and asked volunteers to host the next CLEG meeting in September.

II. ACTION ITEMS-CONSENT AGENDA

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

- March 5, 2007 quarterly meeting minutes;
- Revised 2007 Meeting Schedule; and
- Western Upper Peninsula (UP) Waiver Request

Mr. Tomlinson asked Mr. Chambers the recommendation of the Accelerating Re-Employment Committee after their review of the Western UP Waiver Request. Mr. Chambers stated that the Committee recommends Council approval of the Western UP Waiver Request.

A MOTION was made by, Mr. Matthew Chambers, CLEG member, and supported by, Ms. Sharon Parks, CLEG member, to approve the action items.

III. TOUGH CHOICES OR TOUGH TIMES

Mr. Ray Uhalde, Director of the Workforce Development Program at the National Center on Education and the Economy, presented on Tough Choices or Tough Times. The presentation provided a road map for transforming all levels of education in the United States, from pre-school through post-secondary education, to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing global economy. Tough Choices or Tough Times recommends fundamental change in education structure, curriculum, teacher compensation and assessment, as well as change in the roles of all education institutions.

A discussion of the information presented ensued.**

IV. DLEG UPDATE

Director Cooley introduced the new manager of the AAU, Alisande Henry, and thanked AAU staff for their efforts helping when their unit was short staffed.

Director Cooley shared with Council members a road map for moving DLEG, and the State of Michigan, forward, and indicated there will be many challenges. Meeting these challenges includes the following steps:

- Increasing skills and education attainment;
- Encourage all Michigianians to embrace lifelong learning;
- Energize entrepreneurship;
- Help companies find, develop, and retain talent;
- Increase capability of DLEG leaders to create a disciplined environment of accomplishment; and
- Continue to collaborate with our external environment partners.

Director Cooley asked CLEG members, individually and collectively, to enlist in DLEG's strategy.

V. CHARGE TO THE COUNCIL

DLEG Deputy Director Andy Levin talked about the results of the strategic planning process and the new Charge to the Council.

During the discussion that followed last meeting's strategic planning session, Council Chair Marge Sorge asked DLEG: "Through what focus could CLEG add the greatest value?" The response to this question is the Charge to CLEG, which includes targeted strategies to ensure that no worker is left behind in Michigan's transition to a next generation economy. This new charge includes the following:

- The entire Council is asked to assist in the launch and growth of the No Worker Left behind free tuition initiative. Mr. Levin provided a status report on NWLB.
- Provide a recommendation on whether Michigan should implement a statewide Career Readiness Certificate. The Accelerating Re-employment and Increasing Educational Attainment committees will work on this charge.
- The Creating a Low-Wage Worker Strategy committee has been asked to develop a strategy and initiative that bridges basic skills development into community college enrollment.
- The Creating a State Culture of Entrepreneurship Committee, now chaired by Jack Litzenberg, will focus on providing recommendations for the development of a comprehensive education and training system for entrepreneurs.

- The Tackling Major Workforce Issues Facing Key Industry Sector Committee, with new chair Derick Adams and vice-chair Norma Hagenow will identify educational attainment needs and solutions in key industry sectors. The committee has expressed interest in looking at the Alternative Energy Industry.
- The Increasing Michigan's Global Competitiveness Committee has been charged with developing clear metrics about the comparative positioning of Michigan workers in a global context.

Each of the committees were given a charge to:

- Determine 90 day, one year outcomes;
- Create an action plan to achieve those results; and
- Identify the support that will be needed.

Council members were provided the opportunity for questions and comments. **

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT/CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Tomlinson offered the opportunity for public comment and there was none.

Council members were encouraged to fill out the evaluations to aid in the development of future meeting agendas. The next CLEG meeting is on September 17, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with the location to be determined. **Please note that this date is a change from the originally posted calendar.**

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

***Due to technical difficulties in the recording of the 6/4/07 Council meeting, the customary detailed record of discussion is not available for this meeting.*