

DRAFT

Council for Labor and Economic Growth
Accelerating Re-Employment/Workforce Systems Committee
Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 2005
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Matthew Chambers, Chair
Mitzi King, Vice-Chair
Gene Pierce
Alan Low
Trenda Rusher

Lynn Zuellig
Doyle Hayes
Thomas Hickner
Mary Thornton
Mike Zelle

COMMITTEE STAFF:

Marcia Black-Watson
Christopher Rosborough

Sue Ann Searles
Marti Welsh

GUESTS:

Janet Howard

Diana Carpenter

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Peggy Brey

William Peterson

Mr. Chambers provided an update on the accomplishments of the Committee. Two projects the Committee is working on include the development of a Michigan Workforce System Compact and participation in Workforce Development Board (WDB) Leadership Sessions. A meeting on October 11, 2005 is scheduled to begin the development of the Compact with the Hoshin Planning Model being used to begin the framework of the Compact. Mr. Chambers then explained the purpose of the WDB Leadership Sessions, which is to strengthen and provide strategic direction to the local WDBs. Committee members were encouraged to attend sessions being held in their areas.

Mr. Chambers turned the meeting over to Ms. Janet Howard, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Workforce Programs (BWP), Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG), to discuss with the Committee “Business Solutions.”

Ms. Howard explained the concept of Business Solutions is a result of an analysis of the MI-Opportunity Partnership. It was discovered that there is a lack of coordination among state departments when businesses are contacted. State programs offer a wide

array of resources, but businesses are often unaware of what is available to them and current efforts are not coordinated resulting in multiple contacts with a single firm. The State is in need of a strategy to ensure that resources are provided in a seamless and efficient manner to minimize contact and increase impact.

Committee members were asked for ideas on how this could be organized. Several comments included:

- Regular contact by local/regional staff with other key partners, such as a local chamber of commerce, economic development entities, schools, and community colleges to name a few.
- Hold focus groups of employers asking them what their needs are.
- Participation in local and regional business expos by various state agencies.
- Some local areas already have systems in place, for example Washtenaw County currently has Corporate Services.
- State staff should serve as “helper’s” and consultants of best practices with local/regional staff taking a lead role.
- Contact the most recent 100 companies that contacted a local agency and find out what their experience was.
- Research models in other states with similar systems in place.

Mr. Chambers made a motion that the Committee take Business Solutions on as a project. The motion was supported.

Committee members were reminded of the October 11, 2005 System Compact Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.