

Michigan Workforce Development Board Meeting

February 8, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Members Present:

Kerry Ebersole, Board Executive Director and Director of Dept. of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Office of Sixty by 30

Steve Claywell, President, Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council

Susan Corbin, Acting Director, Dept. of Labor & Economic Opportunity

Awenate Cobbina, Chair, MEDC Executive Committee

Senator Kevin Daley, Michigan Senate

Dr. Robert Davies, President, Central Michigan University

Representative Ben Frederick, Michigan House of Representatives

Jennifer Geno, Executive Director, Career and Technical Education, Saginaw Intermediate Schools

Lee Graham, Executive Director, Operating Engineers 324

Peter Hungerford, Chief Operating Officer, ADAC Automotive

Russ Kavalhuna, President, Henry Ford College

Leigh Kegerreis, Administrative Assistant to the President of the UAW

Rachel Lutz, Owner, Peacock Room Boutique, Yama, and Frida Clothing Stores

Tony Retaskie, Executive Director, Upper Peninsula Construction Council

Jessica Robinson, President, Detroit Mobility Lab and Michigan Mobility Institute and Co-Founder and Partner Assembly Ventures

Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Executive Director of Workforce Development and Detroit at Work, City of Detroit, Designee of Michael Duggan, Mayor, City of Detroit

Matthew Wesaw, Tribal Council Chairman, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and Chairman and CEO, Pokagon Gaming Authority Board

Pastor George Wilkinson, President of NorthGate and Pastor, Word of Life Christian Church

Martha Zehnder Kaczynski, Vice President, Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Corp., Bavarian Inn Lodge, and the Frankenmuth Cheese Haus

Members Absent:

Cindy Pasky, Board Chair and President and CEO, Strategic Staffing Solutions

Representative Sarah Anthony, Michigan House of Representatives, Ex-Officio

Senator Mallory McMorrow, Michigan Senate, Ex-Officio

Dave Meador, Chief Administrative Officer, DTE Energy

Ari Weinzweig, CEO, Zingerman's Community of Businesses

Board Staff Present:

Alicia Kirkey, Departmental Analyst, Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity

Guest Presenters:

Russ Kavalhuna, President, Henry Ford College

Stephanie Beckhorn, Director, Employment & Training, Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity

Scott Powell, Director, Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives

John Groen, Managing Director, Strategy, Policy and Research, Michigan Economic Development Corporation

Call to Order and Roll Call

The virtual meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Executive Director Kerry Ebersole and conducted roll call. A quorum was present for this meeting.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ms. Ebersole and Susan Corbin, Acting Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Ms. Ebersole brought the consent agenda before the board. Tony Retaskie made a motion to approve the proposed February 8, 2021 Meeting Agenda and the proposed minutes of the November 4, 2020 meeting. Bob Davies supported. All members were in favor. The motion carried.

New Business

The Board discussed possible committees/work groups:

- Program Cultivation Committee – Cultivate programs such as Futures for Frontliners and Reconnect and others.
- Wrap-Around Services Committee – Analyze Barriers, such as childcare or transportation, and offer suggestions how to address these barriers.
- Job Matching Committee – Analyze and advise avenues to match graduates to interviews to improve retention of Michigan graduates. Michigan Works! is a good partner in this area.
- Workforce Retraining Committee – Explore options available for current workforce that need to enhance their skills or explore retraining. May also need wrap around services.
- Policy Committee – Analyze policies that adversely affect underserved areas in Michigan and policies that may be reauthorized and provide recommendations for changes to the administration/Legislature.

Ms. Ebersole sought volunteers for committee captains. Upon Ms. Ebersole's suggestion to Peter Hungerford that he serve as captain of the Workforce Retraining Committee, he accepted. Further commitment for other committees will resume after Ms. Ebersole provides further information to the membership outlining the framework and expectations of the committees.

Presentations

- Futures for Frontliners Partnerships was presented and discussed by Russell A. Kavalhuna, President, Henry Ford College.
- Michigan's Labor Market Information presented by Scott Powell, Director, Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information Strategic Initiatives
*** presentation available upon request and on website ***
- Michigan's Talent Expansion presented by John Groen, Managing Director, Strategy, Policy and Research, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
*** presentation available upon request and on website ***
- Apprenticeships presented by Stephanie Beckhorn, Director, Employment & Training, Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity
*** presentation available upon request and on website ***

Public Comment

Ms. Ebersole called for public comment. There being no response after a second call for comment, the meeting continued.

Questions/Comments:

Board member Representative Ben Frederick: The House of Representatives has re-established the Workforce Trades and Talent Committee, which is a House policy committee that will work alongside the Senate Economic Development and National Investment Committee. Members of legislature are interested and focused on talent, apprenticeships, and the workforce arena. He appreciates the suggestion of a Board policy committee and look forward feedback from this committee.

Closing Remarks/Comments

Ms. Ebersole conveyed that the next meeting is May 6, 2021, which will be virtual session. She also indicated she will provide information to the members regarding the committees to launch and activate the committees before the next meeting.

Ms. Ebersole thanked the board members and presenters.



Adjournment

There being no further business. A motion was made by Lee Graham to close the meeting. Supported by Bob Davies. Motion approved unanimously. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Next Meetings:

May 6, 2021 – Virtual Meeting

September 16, 2021 – meeting format/location to be determined

December 6, 2021 – meeting format/location to be determined