

MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL
Local-Elected Officials Special Meeting
IDLEWILD HISTORIC & CULTURAL CENTER
JUNE 4, 2025
MINUTES

Members Present

Gregory, Mark
Guenther, Fred
McCormick, Joel
Mellema, Paul
Russell, Jamie
Tubbergen Clark, Lori

Members Absent

Bulger, Jack
Hartley, Jody
Jane, Chris

Michigan Works! Staff

Keene, Shelly

Roll Call

LEO Special Meeting brought to order at 11:51 a.m. by Vice Chair Fred Guenther, at the Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center, 7025 Broadway Road, Idlewild. Roll call indicates a quorum is present.

Minutes of March 5, 2025, LEO Special Meeting

Paul Mellema moved to accept the minutes of March 5, 2025, LEO special meeting minutes as presented; supported by Jamie Russell; motion approved.

Approval of Newago County, Private Sector, Employer Renee Kline-Garstka, Human Resource Coordinator, Bucher Hydraulics

Guenther moved to approve Newago County private sector employer, Renee Kline-Garstka, Human Resource Coordinator, Bucher Hydraulics, to Workforce Development Board; supported by Mark Gregory; motion approved.

Approval of MWWC Checking Account

A motion was made by Guenther and supported by Mellema that Michigan Works! West Central closes their current checking account with Fifth-Third bank as soon as they are able and to move forward with opening a new business account with Lake-Osceola State Bank designating, Michelle A. Keene, Executive Director as the main signer, with Jonathan Eppley, Communications and Marketing Manager, and Kelly Miller, Administrative Specialist, as the secondary signers on the account.

Other Business

Adjournment

Gregory moved to adjourn meeting; supported by Lori Tubbergen Clark; motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.



WDB/LEO Joint Meeting
Michigan Works! West Central
 Idlewild Historic and Cultural Center
 Wednesday, June 4, 2025

MINUTES

LEO Board Members *(5 Makes Quorum)*

Present	Virtual	Absent
Mark Gregory Fred Guenther Chris Jane Joel McCormick Paul Mellema Jamie Russell Lori Tubbergen Clark		Jack Bulger Jody Hartley

WDB Board Members *(12 Makes Quorum)*

Present	Virtual	Absent
Daniel Eichinger/K Huisman Nancy Griffin Lindsay Hager Anna Hutchinson Renee Kline-Garstka Jami Klomp Dan Kosheba Kelly Rider Rebecca Robeck Tracie Ruppert/Dani Craft Jennifer Schmidt Jesica Scytke Deborah Smith-Olson Mary Trucks		Mike Adams Sheila Brabaw Larry Emig Jason Finch Stephanie Frees Eric Gustad Dave Hamelund Cheray LaRoue Don Nolan Dawn Riley Tracy Sanchez

Guests: Anitra Raspberry and Austina South

Michigan Works! West Central Staff, *Shelly Keene, Toni Davis, Jonathan Eppley, Cindy Romero, Chelsea Augustson, Chad Marr, Kelly Miller, Julie Sanders, Kimberly Tagliareni, Kevin Welch, Victoria Cameron*

1. **Call to Order** at 12:29 p.m. by WDB Chair Deborah Smith-Olson

2. Public Comment – No public comments

3. Welcome New Board Members

A. Renee Kline-Garstka, Newaygo County - WDB

4. Consent Agenda-Handout-Action Items

A. Financial report - Handout (*Goldenrod*)

B. Minutes from March 5, 2025, meeting (Emailed)

Items were motioned for approval by Fred Guenther, LEO; supported by Nancy Griffin, WDB; motion was approved by WDB and LEO.

5. Lake County Success Story

A. Shelly Keene introduced Victoria Cameron, Talent Specialists from Lake County Michigan Works! West Central service center.

B. Cameron introduced two successful BRES clients, Anitra Raspberry and Austina South, who are both employed and just needed a little help to keep their employment -----

C. Cameron and her guests, left the meeting at approximately 12:48 p.m.

6. PY24 Final Budget – Actions Item

Cindy Romero presented the final PY24 budget, which goes from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. This budget was approved on June 5., 2024. In the first column are budget lines and the explanations are at the bottom. Column 2 has the PY24 Preliminary Budget figures that were calculated with the allocations we knew we were going to receive when was the budget was prepared. Column 3 is the PY24 final budget amount that we received, and column 4 are PY24 final expenses.

Items were motioned for approval by Chris Jane, LEO; supported by Nancy Griffin, WDB; motion was approved by WDB and LEO.

7. PY25 Preliminary Budget – Action Item

Romero presented the preliminary budget for PY25 that will run from July 1.,2025, to June 30, 2026. In the first column are the budget lines & the explanations are at the bottom. Column 2 has the PY25 final carry from June going to July. Column 3 is estimated new allocations at the time the budget was prepared. The last column is PY25 preliminary budget for that was presented for approval.

Items were motioned for approval by Nancy Griffin, WDB; supported by Dan Eichinger, WDB; motion was approved by WDB and LEO.

8. Plans/Modifications - Handout (Blue) - Action Items

a. WIOA

1. WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Funding – **No Action – Required**

2. WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Program Allocations for AY 2025 (Draft PI 25-xx) - **Action - Signatures Required.**

3. WIOA Statewide Activities Funding to Support Continuity of Service Delivery for AY24 – (Draft PI – 25-xx) – **Action – Signatures Required**

4. Infrastructure Funding Agreements (IFA) – **Action – Signatures Required**

5. WIOA Statewide Activities Funding for Career Explorations and Experience Events (Drafts PI 25-xx) – **Action – Signatures Required**

- 6. Capacity Building & Professional Development (Draft PI 25-xx) – **Action – Signature Required**
- 7. Statewide Activities Funding Allocations for Customer Relationship Management for Program Year 2025 (Draft PI 25-xx) – **Action – Signature Required**
- 8. Local Workforce Development Board WIOA Membership Recertification (PI 25-12) – **Action - Signature Required**
- b. Employment Services
 - 9. Employment Service Allocation for AY 2025 (Draft PI 24-x) **Action – Signatures Required**
 - 10. RESEA (Draft PI 25-xx) – **Action – Signature Required**
- c. DTE
 - 11. Energy Foundation Grant/United Way of the Lakeshore – **No Action Required**
- d. Other
 - 12. Talent and Growth Barrier Removal Initiative (PI 25-15) – **Action – Signatures Required**
 - 13. National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) – (PI 25-14) – **Action – Signatures Required**
 - 14. Michigan Statewide Targeted Apprenticeship Inclusive and Readiness System Extension (MiSTAIRS EXT) (Draft PI 25-XX) – **Action – Signature Required**

Items were motioned for approval by Jamie Russell, LEO; supported by Chris Jane, LEO; motion approved by WDB and LEO.

9. Approval of One-Stop Operator – **Action Item**

The State of Michigan requires that the boards approve the One-Stop Operator service provider. In April, an RFP was released, and we had two applicants apply. Dr. Marv Pichla, our current One-Stop Operator and the Michigan Works! Association also applied. In the past, we have only had one bidder and that has been Pichla. The Michigan Works! Association has started applying to be One-Stop Operators across the state due to lack of providers. For West Central, we have a solid reliable relationship with Mr. Pichla and based on the scoring of the RFPs it is recommended to the board that we continue our relationship with Mr. Pichla and award him a contract for the next three years.

Item was motioned for approval by Fred Guenther, LEO; supported by Jesica Scytke, WDB; motion was approved by WDB and LEO.

10. Action Planning Update

Our second Board Academy webinar was held on April 2, and the topic was Business Services. Several board members attended to hear the business services team highlight all the things they do to support employers and business growth. Included in the board's info packet are screen shots from the webinar.

The next Board Academy webinar will be Aug. 6. The topic will be the OS Reentry Services program.

Other elements of our current Action Planning can be seen sprinkled throughout your board packet. For example:

- Our **Visibility** efforts can be seen on page 14 with our continuously growing apprenticeship efforts; on page 15 with the success of our seasonal job fairs this past March; and on page 19 with an outline of our first-ever Reality Fairs held in May; and
- Our **Young Adult Outreach** efforts can be seen on page 18 where we highlight the annual Dreams to Destinations forum we hosted in March at our Ludington center.

11. MiCareerQuest West Central (Video)

Jonathan Eppley reported on MiCareerQuest (MICQ). MICQ was a huge success! We had 1,229 students from 20 high schools; 41 volunteers; and 78 employers and training providers – our largest to date!

Including 14 board member organizations – THANK YOU!

- Arbre Farms
- Bucher Hydraulics
- Consumers Energy
- Ferris State University
- Grand Oaks
- Gray & Company
- Hamtech
- Hardman Construction
- Michigan Dept. of Corrections
- Michigan Rehabilitation Services
- Reed City Group
- SMART Local 7
- UACJ Whitehall Industries
- W. Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

I want to give huge thanks to all the staff involved that day! This would not have been possible without everyone doing their part. Also want to thank the team at Wink Arena for being so accommodating; and the Ferris CJ students who acted as our security for the day.

Planning for next year's event will start in November.

Video from 2025, MICQ was played to applause from board members.

12. Michigan Works! West Central Organizational Updates

a. Executive Director, Shelly Keene

- Staffing – We did lose two of our staff to GEO. They had previously worked and GEO and were very eager to return. One was a Talent Specialist in Baldwin and the other was our Offender Success Program Manager. Because of our contractual requirements, we recently fill the OS Program Manager role. Keene introduce to the board Chelsea Augustson, who has actually worked in for MWWC for six years and has been the OS accounting specialist. She transitioned to her new role a couple weeks ago and once she gets her replacement trained, she will fully transition to her management role.
- Funding – We continue to watch the federal budget and to see what happens with the U.S. Department of Labor.
 - We are hopeful that a good portion of the infrastructure dollars the state will be receiving will be distributed to the Michigan Works! Agencies. They have indicated there should be \$100 million coming for workforce development activities.
- We have been in communication with GEO Group and have assisted with marketing and outreach for their hiring needs. We have not held any special job fairs for them at this time. They needed to

have their first 200 employees hired by June 1. They were about 35 short from what I am hearing. The overall goal is to have about 485 total employees when fully staffed.

- June is a busy month for our team with lots of exciting events planned.
 - On Tuesday, June 10, we kickoff our Hiring Party season starting with Big Rapids and Newaygo. All six events are held in June, and they run from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. We are looking forward to being able to put several people back to work in our six-county region.
- In the packet, was a new participant report. This is the format we use when we meet with legislators, and we have now transitioned to using this as our board report. Hopefully it is a little bit easier to read and understand than the charts and tables previously provided.

b. Communications Report, Jonathan Eppley

20 Under 30!

Hot off the presses are this year's 20 Under 30 publication! These were published in this past Saturday's Pioneer and this week's HR & LCS. Copies also are available at every service center.

Our annual award luncheon will be Friday, July 25, at our Ludington service center. A formal invite will be sent out at a later date, but we'd love to have some of our board members there to help us recognize these bright young professionals.

c. Business Services Report

1. Kevin Welch

SS-ELC Program Recognition

Kevin shared that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is conducting a case study on our SS-ELC (Sector Strategy Employer-Led Collaborative) program. This recognition is a significant opportunity to showcase the innovation and impact of our local workforce development efforts on a national level.

Impact Award Recipient – Osceola County Sheriff's Department

Transitioning from the national spotlight to our local success, let's turn attention to our 2025 Impact Award recipient: the Osceola County Sheriff's Department. The department was commended for its efforts in partnering and addressing staffing shortages. The video that highlights their accomplishments was played. It also was played when they received their award in Lansing this past April.

2. Julie Sanders

We celebrated National Apprenticeship Day along with MICQ on 4/30. We have been working very hard with our short turn-around grant and have registered 47 apprentices in April and May to date. We will be providing \$51,600 directly to the apprentices in the form of support services, which includes a tech package and a gift card. Employer support will be approximately \$172,000 and is expected to be funded to the employers at the end of June.

d. OS Reentry Services, Chelsea Augustson

Reentry United Conference: The conference will be held on Aug. 15, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration opens June 24. Board members were invited to attend or volunteer and

can be added to the email list upon request. This year's format includes four breakout sessions with 13 presenters, and success stories shared during lunch.

e. Workforce Development Services, Toni Davis

Participation in Remote Area Medical (RAM) Event – Big Rapids

We were invited by Ferris State University to participate in the Remote Area Medical clinic in Michigan, which took place this past weekend. This free clinic provided essential medical, dental and vision services to underserved individuals — no ID or insurance required. We hosted a resource booth to share information about our services, connect attendees with follow-up support and build relationships with other providers.

Outreach Participation – Coyote Cares Event

Our Reed City office was invited to participate in the first-ever Coyote Cares outreach event at Reed City Schools on April 17. Both school staff and the specialists were happily surprised that nearly 200 students between the ages of 14-18 chose to attend the Michigan Works! West Central presentation over other available sessions. The strong turnout and high level of engagement highlighted student interest in having a successful future, with many asking thoughtful questions and expressing surprise at the wide range of no-cost services we offer.

Veteran Assistance Expo

We had a Veteran Assistance Expo where the VA came on site in Big Rapids. In addition to Battle Creek VA being on site, Veterans Career Officer Jamie Griswold, both Mecosta County Veterans Services Reps and MOTA also were there to inform Veterans about services they have available. We had 21 Veterans attend the event.

OCEANA COUNTY

Love, Inc. will be working with Oceana County staff on a workshop series in the Shelby office. The topics will include parenting and budgeting classes starting later this month.

13. Handouts

a. News Clippings

1. Baldwin prison may reopen as ICE detention center
2. State awards \$3 million for Young Professionals Initiative
3. Taco Frida to open downtown
4. Chipotle plans to build in Big Rapids on Perry Avenue
5. Michigan Potash gets permit from EGLE
6. The Pie wHole bakery to close storefront
7. Big Rapids Pizza Hut location closing down
8. Gotion permitting on hold
9. Remus Leprina plant ceases production
10. Threads North heads south
11. From theory to practice

b. Unemployment

The state level is at 4.7 percent and the national level 3.9 percent.

c. Updated WDB Roaster

d. Updated LEO Roaster

14. Next Meeting:

Sept. 3, 2025 – Big Rapids Michigan Works! West Central service center, 14330 Northland Drive

15. Other Business

16. Adjournment

Jamie Russell, LEO; motioned to adjourn meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.