

**BERRIEN, CASS, & VAN BUREN
CAREER & EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
June 2, 2021
Michigan Works! Virtual Meeting**

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present:

Bob Kara, Chris Machiniak, Ken Flowers, Robert Smith, Debbie Lull

Guests:

Allie Knapp (Bridge Academy)

Members Absent:

Corey Clark, Dave Floran, Laurie Hasse, Cody Korfmacher, Mikki Spagnoli, Diane Owen-Rogers

Staff Present:

Erin Venno, John Mansfield

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. Introductions

Erin Venno welcomed all CEAC members and guests present. A roundtable of introductions started the meeting, as well as quick housekeeping items.

III. Presentations

Chris Machiniak shared the Federal Perkins Regional Review. This grant supports CTE programming and is shared amongst CTE programs in Region 19 (Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties). Please see the attached document for the summarized information.



Perkins 21-22 Region
19 Summary (1) (1).pc

Debbie Lull commented that Spectrum Health Lakeland has voiced an interest in non-traditional employees and that it would be nice to see additional funding allocated for that population. Chris and Robert Smith mentioned that there are metrics defined by the state that each program must meet, and that this area does a really good job in the non-traditional metrics. The funding reflects that the work is going well and allocated to other areas of need.

Open discussion around communication of career opportunities was held. Because of the talent shortage, there has been an influx of communication from business and industry to educators on open positions. Both Van Buren Tech Center and Lake Michigan College have digital job boards, but there is voiced desire to have a regional approach. Erin is going to discuss with other members of the Michigan Works! Business Team for ideas and opportunities.

Erin, Chris, and Robert updated members on the Career Pathway Day planning for this coming fall. As in past events, this will target 9th grade students from Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties with hands-on career exploration and targeted information. If the pandemic situation continues to improve or remain positive, the event will be in-person. Further planning meetings will occur over the coming months.

General thoughts on the CEAC roster were discussed. Primary needs are secondary educators and employers. Chris and Robert stated that they would reach out to a couple of ideal candidates; depending on the district, targeting superintendents and guidance counselors. Allie Knapp thought that youth-developing entities would be valuable CEAC members as well, such as Girls & Boys Club or Developing Young Professionals. For employers, Debbie stated that we should target those from the Michigan Works! open jobs list, as well as Ken Flowers suggesting we ask Paul Brohman and Mark O'Reilly (MW Business Account Managers) for suggestions.

IV. Updates

Michigan Works! Berrien, Cass, Van Buren:

Erin Venno shared briefly that Michigan Works! is now available for appointments Monday-Friday at the service centers. Planning to open to the general public has begun, but no set date has been announced.

Post-Secondary:

Ken Flowers updated that Lake Michigan College has benefited from the increased capacity limits. The Pre-Apprenticeship program increased from 8 to 13 available slots. They are benefiting from the Michigan Reconnect program, with a projected fall increase. They are still virtual this summer, but looking for an in-person semester this fall.

Employers:

Bob stated that they started approximately 20 new apprentices recently. They have not had a large amount of applications, but the quality has been really high. They are paying \$19.50/hour plus full benefits to start, and have noticed positive results from that. They are focused on non-traditional apprentices, and two of their new apprentices are women, for five total.

Secondary:

Robert shared that in his role as CEPD (Continuing Education and Professional Development) Legislative Liaison, he recently testified with Mike Mulligan and Brian Sarvello to the Workforce, Trades, and Talent Committee, chaired by Representative Beth Griffin. They shared how CTE programming naturally has ties to business and industry, and the relevance and importance of them. Additionally, Van Buren Tech Center recently had a ribbon cutting for their Health Department relationship and opening their dental occupations program (for fall 2021). In fall 2021, they hope to be 100% in-person.

Chris stated that they are currently working on their shared-time scheduling. In the past, they have averaged about 300 students and currently have 407 enrolled. Lakeshore High School is looking to launch their HVAC program this fall, but are struggling to find a qualified instructor.

Allie Knapp shared that the Bridge Academy is transitioning from a program to a public school academy on July 1, 2021. The mission of a no-nonsense high school diploma or equivalency remains the same, but this will allow them more choices to assist students continue their education or career pathway. Enrollment is currently underway, and school starts on August 30th!

V. Member/Public Comments

Next Meeting Date

The committee will meet virtually via Zoom, unless otherwise decided, on October 21st from 8-9AM.