



Legislative Committee

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Meeting ID: 223 724 810 021 Passcode: sQ7H9AT9
Monday, December 16, 2024 ▪ 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Members: Jim Fisher (Chairperson), Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jay Dunwell, Jeran Culina, Nate Henschel, TaRita Johnson, Marcus Keech

Charge: *The Legislative Committee will educate legislators representing the 7-county region on workforce development programs and their impact on the local economy. The group will advocate for resources and goodwill with state and federal legislators. The committee's role is **Connections and Advocacy**.*

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Welcome and Call to Order | |
| 2. Approval of July 16, 2024 Minutes | Action Required |
| 3. Appointment of TaRita Johnson | Information Item |
| 4. 2025 Meeting Schedule | Action Required |
| 5. 2025 Election Results | Discussion Item |
| 6. Updates from Members | Discussion Item |
| 7. Other Business- Michigan Works! Association (MWA) Legislative/Advocacy Day: March 19, 2025 | |

Next Scheduled Legislative Committee Meetings: TBD

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

January 28, 2025

March 25 or April 22, 2025

July 15, 2025

October 21, 2025

November 18, 2025 – if needed



Legislative Committee

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Meeting ID: 241 920 526 040

Passcode: ywvL7G

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 ▪ 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members: Jim Fisher (Chairperson), Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jeran Culina, Jay Dunwell, Nate Henschel, Marcus Keech

Present: Jim Fisher, Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jeran Culina, Jay Dunwell, Nate Henschel, Marcus Keech, Jacob Maas, Angie Barksdale, Janette Monroe

Charge: *The Legislative Committee will educate legislators representing the 7-county region on workforce development programs and their impact on the local economy. The group will advocate for resources and goodwill with state and federal legislators. The committee’s role is **Connections and Advocacy.***

- 1. Welcome and call to order by Chairperson, Jim Fisher at 10:33 a.m.
- 2. Approval of April 16, 2024 Minutes **Action Required**
Motion – Mark Bergsma
Second – Marcus Keech
Item Approved by Vote – Motion carried.
- 3. Stronger Workforce for America Act and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) **Discussion Item**
 Jacob Maas, Chief Executive Officer reviewed some proposed training and spending requirements with the Stronger Workforce for America Act. In addition, Jacob reviewed some discussions that is taking place utilizing boards and systems across the state, redesignation challenges, and lastly that there may be an introduction of a new TAA bill soon. Discussion took place and Jacob answered committee members’ questions.
- 4. Fiscal Year (FY) 25 Budget **Discussion Item**
 Jacob Maas, Chief Executive Officer reviewed the document provided in the packet. Jacob highlighted portions of the Department of Labor and Economic opportunity budget (LEO). A few topics included Going Pro Talent Fund (GPTF), community college access and challenges, additional training funds and numerous initiatives. Discussion took place.
- 5. Legislative Visits/ Tours **Discussion Item**
 Jacob Maas reported most legislative visits have been completed and, on a hold, now until after the election season. Discussion took place on those statewide and congressional races.
- 6. Update from Members **Discussion Item**
 No updates.
- 7. Other Business – None
- 8. Adjournment at 11:30 a.m. by Jim Fisher. Next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2024.

Recorded by: _____ Received by: _____

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Area Community Services
Employment & Training Council
215 Straight Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 336-4100

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Committee

FROM: Jacob Maas, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: December 16, 2024

RE: Appointment of Legislative Committee Member: TaRita Johnson

Background:

TaRita Johnson with The Right Place Inc currently serves on the WMW WDB and expressed interest in joining the legislative committee.

At the Executive Leadership and Strategic Engagement Committee (EC) of the West Michigan Works! Workforce Development (WDB) meeting on November 18, 2024, Madam Chairperson, Heather Daniel approved appointment for TaRita to serve as a member of the Legislative Committee.

The current roster is as follows:

Jim Fisher, Second Act: Committee Chairperson/WDB Member

Nora Balgoyen, ITC Holdings: WDB Member

Mark Bergsma, BHS Insurance: WDB Chairperson

Jay Dunwell, Wolverine Coil Spring: WDB Member

Jeran Culina, BLU

Nate Henschel, Consumers Energy: WDB Member

TaRita Johnson, The Right Place, Inc.: WDB Member

Marcus Keech, The Grand Rapids Chamber

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Committee

FROM: Jacob Maas, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: December 16, 2024

RE: 2025 Meeting Schedule

Background

We are proposing the following 2025 Legislative Committee meeting dates schedule.

Legislative Committee (10:30a.m. – 12:00p.m.)

January 28, 2025
March 25 or April 22, 2025
July 15, 2025
October 21, 2025
November 18, 2025- if needed

Requested Action

We are requesting support and approval from the Legislative Committee for the 2025 meeting schedule.