

**Northeast Michigan Consortium
Education Advisory Group
April 17, 2008
Hillman, Michigan**

- I. Call to Order – 10:10 a.m.
- II. Introductions and Approval of the January 23, 2008, Meeting Minutes.

Members

Kathy Marsh, Chair
Kathy Bodzick
Paul Brunell
Greg Bush
Tim Dykstra
Sheryl Florian
Gary Goren
Jackie Herman
Jim Hilgendorf
Barb Kurtz
Joyce McCoy
Gene Scott
Susan Whitener

Staff

Kurt B. Ries, Director
Jane Zielaskowski, Executive Secretary

Guests

Mike Kollien, Alpena Community College

Scott moved to approve the January 23, 2008, meeting minutes, supported by McCoy. Ayes all, motion carried.

- III. Perkins/Tech Prep Update.

Secondary and post-secondary schools have been working on developing their Perkins IV plans for 2008-2014. There have been significant changes, particularly in the core indicators. Annual plans are due to the state on May 1, 2008.

Michigan's Perkins plan specifies that funds must be utilized to support services and activities relating to approved career and technical education programs that impact all students within CTE programs.

- IV. Perkins Secondary/Post-Secondary Plans.

- A. Alpena Public Schools. McCoy presented an overview of the Perkins and Tech Prep plans. The Perkins plan has been approved, and \$222,466 is anticipated. The emphasis for the next few years will be on gap analysis, assisting special populations, boosting non-traditional student enrollment and improving graduation rates, while being aware of the high skill, high wage, high demand career emphasis and the Governor's priorities (health

care, alternative energy, homeland security and advanced manufacturing). It was also noted that military, trade schools, and journeymen programs are all considered post-secondary education.

The Tech Prep plan (\$80,622) has required some revisions. The plan focuses on aligning 2+2 programs, student exposure to college and employment options, increasing data collection to be used for program improvement, and the career priorities mentioned above.

- B. North Central Michigan College. Dykstra distributed a summary of a brief description of the application which reflects the new Perkins IV legislation. Performance indicators for community colleges have changed significantly, and now include measuring against industry standards for program curriculum. This has been challenging as in many industries standards aren't stated anywhere, requiring colleges to try and identify the standards. NCMC is looking at testing tools that have objective measures defined by experts in their fields. A work group is compiling a listing of occupations and creating a master list of standards. They have developed a timeline through 2014 for programs that they expect to be credentialed. Basically, programs will be required to have a third party assessment, similar to nursing boards testing. The testing isn't required to tie to state's Career Readiness Certificate.

NCMC plans are very similar to the last year's regarding special populations, gender non-traditional enrollment, occupational instruction and instructional equipment. Perkins funds are allowed to be used for occupational equipment, which is not allowed at the secondary level.

- C. Kirtland Community College. Marsh presented a preliminary summary similar to last year's, but shifting \$20,000 out of equipment and into special populations to be used for tutoring to meet occupational attainment performance indicators. They are considering hiring a para-professional for tutoring nursing students in their student center, as 40% of students enrolled in occupational studies are in the nursing program. Their allocation is down a bit from last year. Mini grants will be used to encourage their faculty to network with high school instructors.
- D. COOR ISD. Bush reported that at \$149,724, their Perkins allocation has also decreased from last year. Their proposed grant activities include providing opportunities for students in grades 9-12 to pursue specific career and technical training, strengthen academic, career & technical education skills, and link secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs. COOR will be working to improve their curriculum alignment with those of community colleges.
- E. Alpena Community College. Mike Kollien, (attending for member Mark Curtis) noted that ACC will be using their funds primarily for equipment to support their many technical programs.

V. Role of the EAG Discussion.

Ries opened the discussion by providing the EAG's legal background as an education-oriented organization and an assessment, as provided at the January meeting. He has talked to other EAGs in the state to see what they are doing. Ries reviewed current and potential EAG activities and opened the floor for discussion.

McCoy questioned if the EAG could help local colleges provide in-service training and professional activities in the region to help keep their costs down.

Hilgendorf asked whether the WDB could provide direction to the EAG. Ries replied that it was doubtful, that the Board only meets for 10-12 hours/year, regards education and its requirements as complex, and that the EAG itself could best determine its role relative to the workforce. Hilgendorf also raised issues relative to high school graduation, and whether the WDB or EAG could be a means to raise concerns to the state.

Florian referred to number 16 on the current and potential activities list (reviewing K-12 and college offerings to ensure consistency with regional and state labor market information), noting that EAG approval is required for their curriculum changes. Schools can't even do the necessary paperwork to start a new program without EAG approval.

Bodzick asked what impact the proposed "Certificate of Completion" has on students. Hilgendorf responded that this seems to be a work in progress. Given the new method for calculating drop out rates, a GED could no longer be considered a certificate of completion. The "No Child Left Behind" legislation will see changes. A student could fail classes, yet pass all of the standard tests, so should they receive a high school diploma? Or what if a student gets A's but doesn't pass the test? Does the EAG have a voice on this at any level? It was suggested that perhaps the EAG could be a lobbying body as they represent both secondary and post-secondary education. The EAG is also useful in that it allows post-secondary representatives to hear about what's going on at the secondary level.

Discussion continued on the need to meet to discuss Perkins and Tech Prep performance indicators, and to continue networking. Approval means more than just saying yes or no, as CTE people rely on the EAG to help with data tracking.

In summary, the EAG's role may not be clear, but the group serves a purpose. The group should continue to meet to tackle unforeseen issues, share information and perhaps look at some of the 16 points in greater depth.

VI. Consortium Update: No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) Program.

Ries distributed a packet of information regarding the NWLB program to accelerate people into post-secondary training. Little new funding is currently

available to support the program. MWAs must use WIA and some state discretionary funds for training. Everyone at the legislative level is supportive of the concept, but the question is if there will be any new funds (state general funds or federal WIA discretionary) available this year. Other competing interests also want more general funds. The packet also contained summarized regional and statewide NWLB community college enrollments.

VII. Round Table Updates by Members.

- Whitener reported that Inland Lakes Schools is rewriting a McKinney-Vento grant, and could use a letter of support from the EAG. She also would like to have more discussions about the proposed “Certificates of Completion”, as it will impact their performance measures.
- Mike Kollien spoke regarding ACC’s concrete technology program. ACC has received a community-based training grant to expand and promote the program. Their aim is to improve the country’s infrastructure by providing trained workers, while recruiting out-of-state students to enroll in the concrete technology program. If an applicant is determined eligible by Michigan Works!, ACC will pay 100% of their tuition. Students will also receive job placement assistance, but must be willing to relocate out of the area. ACC has 20 out-of-state students enrolled in the concrete tech program to begin the fall semester, and there are additional openings.
- Marsh advised that KCC has started a vascular sonography program. There aren’t many jobs available in Michigan, so this program will also be marketed to out-of-state students. Marsh also noted that they interested in a movement afoot in the legislature to allow community colleges to award baccalaureate degrees. This would be an excellent opportunity for local colleges to provide for students who can’t travel downstate.
- Kurtz distributed some information on asset mapping that she has been working on with Mary Campbell (MC Planning & Design), as part of the 21st Century Workforce Initiative. They have met with leaders and EDCs in several communities to brief them on the concept, garner participation. and discuss projects that they would be interested in. She also handed out updated labor market information.

VIII. Other Business.

The next meeting will be held on September 18, 2008, at Elk Ridge.

IX. Adjourn – 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt B. Ries
Secretary