

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010

At a special meeting/public hearing of the **Education and Training Committee**, held Tuesday, February 23, 2010, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

D. Flynn-Chair, Bruley, Camphous-Peterson, Doherty, Mijac, Mocerri, Rengert, Sprys and Gielegem (ex-officio).

Absent and excused was Crouchman.

Other Commissioners Also Present:

Accavitti, Boyle, Kepler and Tocco

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair D. Flynn called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Camphous-Peterson, supported by Sprys, to adopt the agenda, as presented. **The Motion Carried.**

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONER DAVE FLYNN,
COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Chair D. Flynn asked that U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, who was available via telephone conference call, be allowed to address committee at this time.

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow congratulated the board on their continued focus and effort regarding unemployment and job training. She recapped what has been done during the past year and their work to extend benefits for the unemployed for one year and briefly spoke about new developments in Washington.

Chair D. Flynn stated that today's hearing is a continuation of last year's and to refocus efforts on sustained and widespread unemployment. He acknowledged that the extensions have helped, but the problems remain and the real solution is job creation.

TESTIMONY FROM INFORMATION-PROVIDING PANELS

John Bierbusse, Director of MiWorks, presented employment, unemployment and job statistics and information for Macomb County and the state of Michigan.

Real Life Experience Testimony

Jason Oziem and Thomas Thieda, individuals who testified at last year's hearing, provided an update on their situations.

The following commissioners spoke: Sprys, Bruley and Mijac.

Bruce Weaver, Manager of Labor Market Analysis for the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, provided a presentation on the state and county unemployment rates and how those are produced and calculated, who is counted as employed and unemployed, how unemployment is measured for the United States, states and counties and unemployment trends for Macomb County.

The following commissioners spoke: Boyle, Gielegghem, Bruley and Rengert.

Xuan Liu, Data Manager for SEMCOG, provided information linking economic data with demographic data. He felt it will take many years to regain the jobs lost.

The following commissioner spoke: Gielegghem.

Bill Sullivan, Director of United Way 211, highlighted data and trends regarding the needs of the unemployed and what non-profits can do to respond. He spoke in support of a jobs program because there are not enough resources or people to respond to the needs.

The following commissioner spoke: Doherty.

Frank Taylor, Director of Macomb County Community Services Agency, overviewed their programs and the trends in the number of individuals that have been served.

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PANEL

Keith Nelson read a letter from Congressman Sander Levin regarding the federal Recovery Act and his efforts to extend and expand this fund.

Vicki Selva from Senator Carl Levin's office relayed the Senator's support for finding a solution to the unemployment crisis.

Chair D. Flynn noted that all state representatives were invited and a letter of support was received from Representative Jon Switalski.

State Representative Fred Miller emphasized the need for jobs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristen Grifka, 1882 Oakshire, Berkley
Anne Lilla, 153 S. Highland, Mount Clemens
Simon Haddad, 50753 Mound Road, Shelby Twp.
Greg Castle 15546 Catherine Court, Clinton Twp.
David Maquerra, Clinton Twp.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Board Chair Gielegem thanked Commissioner D. Flynn for taking the lead on this issue.

ADOPT RESOLUTION URGING FEDERAL LEGISLATORS TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE JOBS PROGRAM (OFFERED BY D. FLYNN)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CAMPHOUS-PETERSON, SUPPORTED BY BRULEY, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPT A RESOLUTION URGING FEDERAL LEGISLATORS TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE JOBS PROGRAM.

The following commissioners spoke: Rengert and Bruley.

Chair D. Flynn called for a vote on the motion and **THE MOTION CARRIED WITH RENGERT VOTING “NO.”**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Doherty, supported by Sprys, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. **The Motion Carried.**

Corinne Bedard
Committee Reporter