

MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING NOTES

Thursday, February 21, 2019 | 12:00–3:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Steven Duke, Region 2 Planning Commission
Conan Smith, Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
Jim Van Doren, Lenawee Now (phone)
Ken Hinton, Livingston County (phone)
Ryan Buck, Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (phone)
Bill Sleight, Michigan Works! Southeast
Michelle Mueller, Washtenaw Community College
James Durian, Public Sector Consultants

2019 REGIONAL PROSPERITY INITIATIVE PLANNING

The Regional Prosperity Initiative was awarded \$306,810 for calendar year (CY) 2019 to carry out its vision. The management team met on February 21, 2019, at Washtenaw Community College to discuss CY 2019 planning.

- Steven Duke and James Durian discussed the vision for CY 2019. The management team reviewed the obligations under the new award and provided an update on asset management efforts between prosperity regions and the state.
- The management team also reviewed the five-year plan and determined that, while a comprehensive strategic planning process is unnecessary, data need to be updated and additional success stories need to be collected and integrated.
- To sustain this work for the long term, the management team approved monthly meetings on topics relevant to stakeholders, including talent development, regional transportation, and integrated asset management.
- The management team determined they would like to include more adult education opportunities as part of their challenge grant efforts. Several members are going to work with Public Sector Consultants (PSC) to expand outreach to nonprofits that serve the adult education population in order to encourage them to apply for the grants.
- Management team members are investigating opportunities for promoting regional transportation efforts and will report their findings at the next meeting.
- Laura Hoehn, career and college readiness coordinator for the Livingston Educational Service Agency, updated the management team on the Job Shadow Toolkit Program that is partially funded through a Greater Ann Arbor Region (GAAR) challenge grant.
- The management team determined that their next meeting would be a conference call in March.

10 CENTS A MEAL PROGRAM CLOSE OUT

James Durian informed the management team that the 10 Cents a meal program is closing out. In February, PSC completed phase three of the 10 Cents a Meal evaluation—a program that serves 13 school districts in Prosperity Region 9—and submitted the final report to GAAR.

In December 2018, PSC surveyed approximately 321 students about ten fruits and vegetables purchased and served through 10 Cents a Meal. PSC concluded that the program is highly regarded by school food service directors, lunchroom staff, and students alike:

- Directors and staff noted its positive impact on the affordability, quality, and variety of Michigan produce served.
- A majority of students (84 percent) reported liking the fruits or vegetables they chose.
- Evaluation findings suggest that schools in the region should continue implementing and evaluating the program to increase access to Michigan fruits and vegetables.

PSC offers the following three recommendations that, alone or in combination, would help GAAR bolster the program's value proposition for future appropriations and/or expansion:

- Transitioning from onsite surveys of student fruit and vegetable consumption to a larger, quasi-experimental or randomized control research design that better demonstrates 10 Cents a Meal's causal impact on student dietary attitudes and behaviors.
- Collecting quantitative and qualitative data to test anecdotal observations of whether school food service directors continue purchasing Michigan-sourced produce from participating farmers, even after they no longer receive a meal subsidy.
- Performing a contribution and/or economic impact analysis of the program in Prosperity Region 9 to quantify direct and indirect contributions to the local economy.