

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee Meeting

March 9, 2016

10:00am

CMWIB, 340 Main Street, Worcester, MA 4th Floor

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Leonard Cooper, Frank Kartheiser, Leo Miller, David Minasian, Karen Pelletier, Jeffrey Turgeon & Janice Weekes.

Guests: Brian Brousseau, Katie Gomes Lyons, Lauren Ross, Fred Taylor & John Trainor.

- Co-chair Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:05am after a quorum was established.

Approval of Feb. 10th Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from Feb. 10th at 340 Main St. were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by F. Kartheiser and second by J. Turgeon.

City Economic Development Update:

- No new projects noted at this time.

WJF Financial Report:

- J. Turgeon discussed the financial report noting the fund is considerably underspent due mainly to the vacant director position and delay in training project startups. J. Turgeon to research whether any WJF funds can be carried into FY17 starting July 1st and will bring a proposed spending plan to the next meeting.

WJF Director:

- J. Turgeon reported the new director has been identified and should be on board within the next month.

Program Updates:

- B. Brousseau and F. Taylor gave an update about Building Pathways. F. Taylor mentioned that driver's licenses have been a big barrier for individuals who may be interested in the program. Info sessions are going well but we are not getting many women that are interested. L. Ross posted an ad on Craigslist in the "Community" section seeking women BP participants and is working with Craigslist's billing

department to post another ad in the Employment section. K. Pelletier will work on press release. There will be 2 info sessions in April solely focused on women participants.

- B. Brousseau spoke about gathering resources to help interested individuals address their barriers. Anne Bureau has a great list of community resources that we may be able to use.

New Business:

- F. Kartheiser mentioned need for ESL classes and introduced John Trainor and Katie Lyons from the Adult Learning Center. J. Trainor mentioned that they have a long waiting list but if funding from the WJF could be utilized, they can assist in the effort of helping participants overcome their barriers (specifically language barriers). The opportunity of building better relationships between organizations was discussed, as well as, the hope to make more direct referrals between partners, which will benefit all involved.

Adjournment:

- D. Minasian made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Jeff Turgeon and was unanimously approved.