

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

April 11, 2018

10:00am

IBEW, 242 Mill Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: Karen Pelletier, Jeffrey Turgeon, John McGovern, Janice Ryan Weekes, Maritza Cruz, & Karen King.

WJF Program Director: Kelsey Lamoureux

Guest: Casey Burns

- The meeting was called to order after a quorum was established.

Welcome and Introductions

- All attendees introduced themselves, their positions and their organizations.

Approval of March 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from March 14, 2018 at 242 Mill Street were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by K. King and a second by J. Turgeon.

WJF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux presented financial updates on the Worcester Jobs Fund and Washington Square funding as well as updates on the overall FY 18 budget. K. Lamoureux reported that the FY 19 budget has not been determined yet.

Special Guest: Casey Burns, CHIP

- C. Burns from the Coalition for Healthy Greater Worcester provided a presentation on the 2016-2020 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). C. Burns described the 9 priority areas and the 7 workforce development strategies from the plan and opened a discussion on how the Jobs Fund could collaborate with the project. J. Turgeon noted that the Center for Health Impact has a community health worker apprenticeship program and that the Southeast Asian Coalition is developing a mental health provider program. M. Cruz requested elaboration on the definition of cultural competency in the CHIP and C. Burns explained that this term is meant to refer to racial and ethnic identifiers as well as linguistic abilities held by health service providers.

WJF Director Report with Program Updates:

- K. Lamoureux provided updates on current participants in CDL training as well as updates on graduates from the EKG & Phlebotomy, Contact Center, and Worcester Building Pathways trainings. K. Lamoureux highlighted that two CDL B graduates are working at Butler-Deaden and

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Superior Waste Management and a graduate from the EKG & Phlebotomy training is working with the Reliant Medical Group.

Other Items:

- K. Lamoureux reminded attendees that the CWC Conference Sharing Skills – Building Connections will be held Thursday May 3, 2018 at the College of the Holy Cross. The Worcester Jobs Fund will be co-presenting with the Worcester Community Labor Coalition on Building Collaborative Partnerships.
- K. Pelletier explained the Opportunity Fair Series that will be presented at 9 local area high schools in April 2018. K. Pelletier invited other interested partners to attend. M. Cruz suggested that the information also be presented at local private high schools in the future.
- J. Turgeon noted that some local businesses are interested in discussing their retention and recruitment strategies. K. Lamoureux described having similar conversations with some local employers who are have difficulty filling their low-wage, high volume openings. J. McGovern noted that the students at the Adult Learning Center are interested in entry level positions at any wage.
- J. McGovern invited attendees to the Mock Interviews, Fashion Show, and Job Fair at the Adult Learning Center during May 22-24, 2018.
- J. Turgeon announced that the Central MA Workforce Skills Cabinet Regional Workforce Blueprint has been submitted to state officials and is available online, the Hurricane Response subgroup is meeting on April 17, 2018 to discuss federal funding available for ESOL providers, and the Greater Worcester Employment Resources Collaborative is hosting a partner breakfast on April 25, 2018. J. Turgeon also announced that the Department of Environmental Protection is interested in developing more career pathways for water testers in the region because of their aging workforce.
- M. Cruz invited attendees to the “Stand Against Racism” community forum at the YWCA of Central MA on May 26, 2018.

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was made by J. Turgeon, was seconded by K. Pelletier and was unanimously approved.

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday May 9, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

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