

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee
December 12, 2018
10:00 am
IBEW; 242 Mill Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: Jeffrey Turgeon, Janice Ryan Weekes, Maritza Cruz, Karen King, and Isabel Gonzalez-Webster

WJF Staff: Kelsey Lamoureux and Theodora Twumasi-Ankrah

Guests: N/A

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

Welcome and Introductions:

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

Introduction of Program Assistant:

- K. Lamoureux announced that T. Twumasi-Ankrah began employment as the Program Assistant for the Worcester Jobs Fund. T. Twumasi-Ankrah provided a brief description of her educational and professional experience and her plans for her outreach role within the Fund. K. Lamoureux offered to provide a complete list of current participant outreach activities for the next meeting for the committee to review.

Approval of November 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

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

WJF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux presented financial updates on the Worcester Jobs Fund, Washington Square funding, Department of Transportation funding as well as updates on the overall FY 19 budget. K. Lamoureux noted that the Department of Transportation has started the contract renewal process for the next cycle of Worcester Building Pathways. J. Weeks explained that the Department of Transportation has recently experienced a change in leadership and inquired about continued funding under the new administration. K. Lamoureux stated that there were no current updates on projected future funding for pre-apprenticeship beyond the initial 3 year time.

WJF Director Report with Program Updates:

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- K. Lamoureux offered updates on graduates from FY 18 and updates on current FY 19 programming including, soft skills training, employer engagement, biomanufacturing, CDL training, Building Pathways, and SNAP programs. K. Lamoureux highlighted that 3 of the graduates from CDL B training program were offered contingent positions with the City of Worcester's Department of Public Works & Parks at \$17/hour and 2 EKG graduates was hired, one by American Red Cross for \$18.70 and another by US Labs for \$15.
- K. Lamoureux the Tradeswomen Tuesday events hosted by the Northeast Center for Tradeswomen's Equity in collaboration with Worcester Building Pathways outreach on November 20th and December 11th were successful with a total of 20 interested women attending the events. An additional four public information sessions have been scheduled at the YWCA and WPL for additional public outreach for Building Pathways.
- K. Lamoureux explained that the SNAP Outreach and SNAP E&T projects are on track for completion with two CDL B students currently eligible for E&T reimbursement. I. Gonzalez-Webster explained that she is on the state DTA board and can provide feedback on our experience with the program, if needed.

Workforce Summit:

- K. Lamoureux noted stated that the Workforce Summit event is tentatively rescheduled for February 5th and is intended to increase employer partnerships with local companies. M. Cruz suggested considering other activities such as an employer outreach campaign as an alternative to the Summit. J. Turgeon noted that the Chamber of Commerce already regularly schedules events for employers and may be a strong venue for outreach activities. I. Gonzalez-Webster suggested writing letters to the editor, success stories, and creating a website for the project to generate more publicity and interest around the Fund. J. Weekes suggested using social media as an outreach tool to bringing awareness of the Fund to local employers. M. Cruz suggested a list of marketing options and respective prices be created. K. Lamoureux offered to create a list of proposed employer outreach activities and costs for the next meeting. J. Turgeon offered to assist K. Lamoureux with the City of Worcester's process of requesting a website and social media pages.

Other Items:

- J. Turgeon reported that the partnership developing an application for the Advancing Cities grant from JP Morgan has decided to not submit an application for this year.
- J. Turgeon explained that the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board is collaborating with Worcester Community Connections to maintain an updated page of local, free training opportunities and that the MCRWB is collaborating with Quinsigamond Community College to connect additional programs with Pell grant eligibility requirements.
- J. Turgeon noted the the MCRWB has been awarded the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program Grant on behalf of the consortium of partners. One partner, Worcester Night Life will be launching a local manufacturing training program to be hosted at WTHS. Night Life has recently hired a new Director, Liz Tiley, and J. Turgeon suggested that it may be helpful for the Jobs Fund to meet with the Director to discuss possible areas of collaboration. K. Lamoureux offered to invite Liz Tiley to the January Oversight Committee meeting.

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- I. Gonzalez-Webster invited T. Twumasi-Ankrah to speak at an upcoming Worcester Interfaith membership meeting on January 23, 2019 about upcoming training opportunities.

Adjourn:

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

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday January 9, 2019 at 12 p.m.

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