

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

May 8, 2019

10:00 a.m.

IBEW; 242 Mill Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: Maritza Cruz, Karen King, Jeffrey Turgeon, Isabella Gonzalez-Webster, Fred Taylor (Proxy), and James Chabot (Proxy).

WJF Staff: Kelsey Lamoureux and Theodora Twumasi-Ankrah.

- 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 April 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

- The meeting minutes from April 10, 2019 at 242 Mill Street were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by K. King and seconded by M. Cruz.

TIF Project Updates

- K. King requested additional information about housing tax incentive programs available across the City. M. Cruz requested a map of the City showing the different housing development programs. K. Lamoureux offered to request further information from the Office of Economic Development to be presented at a future meeting.

WJF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux presented financial updates on the Worcester Jobs Fund, Washington Square, and Department of Transportation (DOT) Funding and as well as updates on the overall FY 19 Budget.
- K. Lamoureux provided updates on funding for future Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship Training program cycles. F. Taylor detailed benefits of the Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship Training for students and the community. F. Taylor suggested an increase in class size for future Worcester Building Pathways cycles and K. Lamoureux agreed to look at funding and placement possibilities for a larger cohort.
- K. King requested information on the Medical Office Administrative outreach process and T. Twumasi-Ankrah provided a summary of the different outreach strategies utilized in the requirement process. K. Lamoureux shared the logistics of the program and information about eligibility guidelines.

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WJF Director Report:

- K. Lamoureux provided updates on the recent Worcester Building Pathways graduation event and placement information for Worcester Building Pathways graduates. F. Taylor offered to collaborate in assisting graduates through the apprenticeship application process.
- K. Lamoureux summarized active programs, completed programs SNAP Employment and Trainings, SNAP Outreach, and a demographic breakdown of FY 19 training program participants.
- I. Gonzalez-Webster suggested creating a marketing campaign to advertise the training programs in the community. K. King suggested connecting with program graduates who are willing to share their success stories. I. Gonzalez-Webster suggested clarifying the eligibility requirements through social media platforms. F. Taylor shared his experience creating video material as part of the Worcester Building Pathways outreach efforts. J. Turgeon offered to work with K. Lamoureux to develop ideas for content, including the creation of a tagline, scripts, and footage ideas.

Grant Updates:

- K. Lamoureux presented information about the Workforce Competitive Trust Fund Grant application submitted among Worcester partners for personal care assistant training.

Committee Chairperson Election June Meeting:

- K. Lamoureux reminded the Committee that Chairperson Elections will be held at the June monthly meeting.

HUD 5 Year Plan, Public Input Meetings:

- K. Lamoureux shared information about the public input meetings the City will hold as part of developing the City's 5 year HUD plan. K. Lamoureux informed the committee that members of the Office of Economic Development have expressed interest in addressing the Jobs Fund Committee at a future monthly meeting about the project.

Other Items/Announcements:

- F. Taylor shared information about a fundraiser being held May 20, 2019 at Antonio's Pizza for a cultural festival.
- K. King shared information about the Walk for Homelessness event on May 19, 2019 at Elm Park.
- J. Turgeon shared information about the MassHire Metro West Workforce Board's Workforce Competitive Trust Fund Grant application for CDL A and CDL B training.
- I. Gonzalez-Webster shared information about Census employment opportunities and an Emergency Shelter Planning meeting on May 15, 2019.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by J. Turgeon, was seconded by I. Gonzalez-Webster and was unanimously approved.

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday June 12, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

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