

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

July 23, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Conducted Via WebEx

Join by phone: +1-415-655-0001 US Toll

Meeting number (access code): 160 321 0457; Meeting password: sUQyep5fp28

Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: Karen Pelletier, Fred Taylor, Adrianna Buduski, Isabel Gonzalez-Webster, Jeff Turgeon, and James Chabot (Proxy).

WJF Staff: Kelsey Lamoureux and Theodora Appiah.

Guests: Peter Dunn and Ethan Brown

- The meeting was called to order after a quorum was established.
- All attendees introduced themselves, their positions and their organizations.

Approval of June 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from the June 25, 2020 virtual meeting were reviewed and F. Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by A. Buduski and unanimously approved.

Economic Development Updates:

- P. Dunn shared that there are no current updates for TIF Applications and that current projects are providing updates to the Construction Diversity Monitoring Committee.
- E. Brown provided a summary of the Construction Diversity Monitoring Committee discussions and highlighted that contractors will be invited to the next meeting to support best practices in the industry. E. Brown shared the next meeting will be held on August 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

FY 21 Co-Chair Elections:

- K. Pelletier opened nominations for Fiscal Year 2021 Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee Co-Chairs. F. Taylor made a motion to nominate K. Pelletier and I. Gonzalez-Webster to continue positions as co-chairs of the Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee. The motion was seconded by Jeff Turgeon. K. Pelletier asked for additional nominations and had no reply, therefore closed the nominations. With two nominations for the two positions, K. Pelletier announced K. Pelletier and I. Gonzalez-Webster as the co-chairs for FY 21.

WJF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux presented financial updates on the Worcester Jobs Fund, Washington Square, and Department of Transportation (DOT) Funding as well as updates on final spending of FY 20 funds. F. Taylor requested clarification on Washington Square funding and K. Lamoureux provided further explanation about sources and funding end dates.

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WJF Director Report:

- K. Lamoureux provided placement updates on two Building Pathways graduates from the FY 19 cohort, including one female graduate currently working on the Worcester Ball Park.
- F. Taylor shared updates on the reopening of the Carpenter's Training Center to the public. K. Lamoureux noted that when apprenticeship training centers reopen, the Worcester Building Pathways Program can resume. E. Brown requested clarification on the enrollment process for agencies with the Carpenter's Union and F. Taylor explained in detail the process to become a registered apprentice.
- K. Lamoureux provided updates on current distance learning and in-person programming for School Bus Driver, CDL Class B, Clinical Medical Assistant, and Building Pathways Pre-apprenticeship participants. K. Lamoureux noted that the Clinical Medical Assistant students will need access to the Worcester Technical High School building to resume clinical training and the Worcester Building Pathways group will need access to apprenticeship training centers to resume their curriculum.
- K. Lamoureux shared updates on increased demand for bus drivers through Worcester Public Schools due to social distancing guidelines on bussing. E. Brown shared concerns about the increased demand for drivers being a temporary response to COVID-19. K. Lamoureux noted that the shortage of school bus drivers is a consistent trend in local labor market data. I. Gonzalez-Webster provided a summary of the new plan for students in returning to school and the increased funding for transportation in Worcester Public Schools.
- K. Lamoureux shared enrollment of SNAP Outreach and E&T Programming.

Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grant:

- K. Lamoureux provided an overview of the Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grant awarded to the MassHire Workforce Boards of the Central Region. The grant will provide \$225,000 in CDL A and CDL B training to job seekers in the area across two years. J. Turgeon explained that the project is supported by various employer partners including the City of Worcester's Department of Public Works, Schneider, Polar Beverages, Advantage Truck Group, Atlas Distributing, Highway Driver Leasing, and the Guild of St. Agnes. K. Lamoureux explained that the Worcester Job Fund staff will provide case management to the City of Worcester residents in the program. These students will be dual enrolled and no training expenses will be charged to the Worcester Jobs Fund for their instruction.

Discussion of Repeat Enrollees:

- K. Lamoureux opened a discussion about allowing graduates of the Worcester Job Fund to complete multiple training programs through the Worcester Jobs Fund, within or across fiscal years. K. Lamoureux noted that graduates already receive case management and job search support, as needed. J. Turgeon shared that some individuals may be interested in increasing their credentials from a CDL B level to a CDL A level or adding a Clinical Medical Assistance Credential to a Medical Office Credential as examples. I. Gonzalez-Webster proposed that K. Lamoureux and T. Appiah should have the authorization to make the decisions in accepting students for repeat enrollment. A. Buduski added that individuals applying in a different industry should be reviewed by the Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee. F. Taylor recommended

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developing an appeal process for individuals to present to the Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee for all programs.

Other Items/Announcements:

- F. Taylor shared information about the Black Families Together meeting that will be held on August 3rd from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- I. Gonzalez-Webster provided information about free community COVID testing for Worcester residents on August 3rd and August 19th as well as an update on the Police Reform Bill.
- K. Pelletier acknowledged K. Lamoureux was selected for the Worcester Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Award.

Adjourn:

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

The next monthly meeting will be Thursday August 27, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

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