

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

June 24, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Via WebEx

Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: Fred Taylor, Adrianna Buduski, Jeffrey Turgeon, Janice Ryan Weekes, and Ruth Seward

WJF Staff: Kelsey Lamoureux and Theodora Appiah.

Guest: Ethan Brown

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

Approval of May 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from the May 27, 2021 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:

- E. Brown informed the committee that there are no updates on TIF applications at this time.
- E. Brown provided updates on a workforce diversity compliance review that will be conducted on the Green Street project that will connect to the entrance of Polar Ball Park. Contractors have begun working on the new Doherty High School construction project with tracking of workforce diversity and residency goals. E. Brown shared that a Diverse Business Disparity study will be conducted in order for the City to set diverse owned business utilization goals. E. Brown confirmed that an additional compliance officer will be hired by the City to monitor the diverse owned businesses hired as subcontractors on contracts.
- F. Taylor suggested coordinating meetings times for the Construction Diversity Monitoring Committee and future diverse business monitoring meetings.
- E. Brown mentioned that the Construction Diversity Monitoring Committee is working on final reports for the YWCA and Table Talk Pies projects.

WJF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux presented an overview of the financial reports for the Worcester Jobs Fund, Washington Square, and Department of Transportation accounts through May 2021. K. Lamoureux provided updated participant numbers for current and future FY 2021 programming. F. Taylor inquired for clarification on the Department of Transportation funds and K. Lamoureux provided more details on the funds expenses.

WJF Director Report:

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- K. Lamoureux provided updates on current programs, completed programs, programs in recruitment and SNAP updates. Current programs include IT Support Specialist, Clinical Medical Assistant, School Bus Driver, CDL A and CDL B training provided through the Worcester Job Fund, Donnelly Grant, and Veteran's Grant. Programs currently in recruitment include Building Pathways, CDL B, and QCC's Medical Administrative Assistant Training. Graduates from completed programs are currently seeking employment or are in the retention phase of employment.
- K. Lamoureux shared that SNAP application assistance continues in FY2021 and has a goal to support at least 50 applications by September 2021 with 19 applications currently completed as of June 2021. E. Brown inquired about documents required from SNAP applicants and procedure in receiving them virtually. K. Lamoureux and J. Ryan Weekes shared challenges with verifying legitimacy with clients over the phone and committee members provided suggestions

FY22 Fiscal Planning:

- K. Lamoureux shared information on programming planned for FY 22 including Coding Dojo, Diesel Technician, and Worcester Building Pathways. K. Lamoureux provided details on the possibility of redesigning the Worcester Building Pathways pre-apprenticeship program to include more hands-on instruction. K. Lamoureux provided details on programs that will partner with the Jobs Fund during FY 22 including QCC's Medical Administrative Assistant, the CDL Donnelly Grant, the Healthcare Hub Clinical Medical Assistant training, Brownfields grant, Jobs For the Future Charging Repair training
- K. Lamoureux proposed funding 12 CDL B and 10 Clinical Medical Assistant participants to complete training with established partners. F. Taylor inquired about the details of the Department of Transportation physical exam. A. Buduski made a motion to fund 12 CDL B participants in FY 22. The motion was seconded by J. Turgeon and unanimously approved. F. Taylor made a motion for the Worcester Jobs Fund to fund 10 seats for the Clinical Medical Assistant Program. The motion was seconded by J. Turgeon and unanimously approved.

Other Items/Announcements:

- F. Taylor shared that the Juneteenth Flag Raising ceremony on June 12, 2021 was a success and that June 19th has been recognized as a state holiday.
- R. Seward shared that the ESOL welding program will be held in the late fall after the implementation grant is approved.
- J. Turgeon highlighted that the MCRWB will be recruiting for the Brownfields Remediation Job Training during the summer.
- K. Lamoureux congratulated Fred on winning the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce's Game Changer Award in recognition of his leadership and commitment to diverse hiring with the building trades.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by F. Taylor, was seconded By J. Ryan Weekes, and was unanimously approved.

The next monthly meeting will be Thursday July 22, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

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