

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

August 27, 2020

10:00 a.m.

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

Meeting number (access code): 160 454 2605; Meeting password: dG9h8ybb6qn

Join from a video system or application: Dial 1604542605@cow.webex.com

Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: Karen Pelletier, Fred Taylor, Adrianna Buduski, Maritza Cruz, Jeff Turgeon, and Janice Ryan Weekes.

WJF Staff: Kelsey Lamoureux

Guests: Ethan Brown

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

Approval of July 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from the July 23, 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:

- There were no current updates for TIF Applications.
- E. Brown provided a summary of the Construction Diversity Monitoring Committee's August meeting, including details on the presentations from Gilbane and Tocci. E. Brown explained that best practices are still being developed for this process including the creation of a report template and assessing whether afternoon meetings would allow more accessibility to the general manager guests. E. Brown noted that Consigli, Sterling Solutions, and the Elwood Adams project team will be invited to future meetings. The next meeting will be held Thursday September 17, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. via WebEx. F. Taylor noted that the meeting benefitted from having two contractors who had different levels of experience with monitoring diversity goals on projects. F. Taylor stated that because both contractors at the meeting were achieving their goals, the meeting including sharing of many best practices, but if contractors are not achieving their goals, this might lead to more challenging meetings.

WJF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux presented financial updates on the Worcester Jobs Fund, Washington Square, and Department of Transportation (DOT) Funding. K. Lamoureux explained that DOT has requested an outcomes report for this current contract and will use that report to assess funding for the following year.

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WJF Director Report:

- 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 trainings.
- K. Lamoureux noted that all participants in the School Bus Driver program have already begun the process of applying for positions with Worcester Public Schools. F. Taylor explained that many school districts are still paying their school bus drivers even though they are not currently driving students.
- K. Lamoureux stated that the Worcester Building Pathways will resume training on August 31, 2020 with a blended program. The students will be completing part of their training via Zoom for Labor History and Construction Diversity curriculum and part of their training in-person. M. Cruz inquired about the Construction Diversity curriculum and requested an invitation to these sessions. F. Taylor explained that Worcester Polytechnic Institute has a project being implemented by Consigli that would be an engaging field trip for the Worcester Building Pathways students.
- K. Lamoureux noted that the SNAP outreach goals have yet to be completed and J. Ryan Weekes offered to share information about SNAP application assistance services with the Access to Recovery staff.

Grant Updates:

- K. Lamoureux provided a brief overview of the grant New England Tractor Trailer Training School received from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to train 24 veterans and family members for CDL B training. This would be an opportunity for eligible Worcester residents to be referred for CDL B training.
- K. Lamoureux provided an overview of the Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grants for ESOL grant that is currently requesting proposals. J. Turgeon explained that Quinsigamond Community College is preparing a mental health/human services application in collaboration with Ascentria Care Alliance. J. Turgeon explained that the Worcester Public Schools, through their Adult Learning Center and Worcester Night Life programs, is preparing an application for a welding training program. F. Taylor inquired about the type of welding the students will be learning. J. Turgeon explained that the students will complete curriculum aligned with a national welding certificate.
- J. Turgeon explained that a federal Brownfields grant has been released that would provide training to local residents for careers in brownfields remediation. The project is currently looking for employer partners.

Other Items/Announcements:

- K. Pelletier noted that the Worcester Business Journal's 40 Under 40 winners will be celebrated on September 16, 2020 virtually. K. Lamoureux offered to share registration information for the event.

Adjourn:

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

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The next monthly meeting will be Thursday September 24, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

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