

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

November 24, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Via WebEx

Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: Karen Pelletier, Fred Taylor, Adrianna Buduski, Bruce Mendelsohn (Proxy), and Tommy Maloney.

WJF Staff: Kelsey Lamoureux and Theodora Appiah

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 October 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from the October 22, 2020 virtual meeting were reviewed and F. Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by T. Maloney and unanimously approved.

Economic Development Updates:

- E. Brown provided an update on the diversity goals and completion status for existing Economic Development projects including the Court House, YWCA, and the Elwood Adams projects. The Court House project is accepting applications for tenants to move in as early as February 2021. The YWCA project will be completed by the end of the year and the Elwood Adams project is continuing to work on increasing the diversity within their workforce. E. Brown noted that the developer and general contractor will be attending next month's Construction Diversity Monitoring Committee Meeting on December 17, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. E. Brown also stated that the contractor for the Elwood Adams project will be meeting with K. Lamoureux and Janice Ryan Weekes during the first week of December to discuss how MassHire can support their hiring initiatives.
- K. Lamoureux inquired about any updates on hiring temporary employees at the Polar Ball Park. E. Brown shared that a scorecard is being developed to record individual project's success with diversity workforce goals.

WJF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux presented an overview of planned programming and funding sources, including outstanding grant applications for fiscal year 2021. Financial reports through September 30, 2020 were provided for the Worcester Jobs Fund, Washington Square, and Department of Transportation accounts.

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- F. Taylor inquired about the two cycles of Building pathways program for FY2021 and K. Lamoureux noted that two cycles of Building Pathways will only be possible if recruitment and hiring opportunities are higher than in previous years.

WJF Director Report:

- K. Lamoureux provided updates on current completed programs, current programming, programs in recruitment and SNAP updates. Current programs include IT Support Specialist, Clinical Medical Assistant, and CDL B training provided through the Worcester Job Fund, Donnelly Grant, and Veteran's Grant. Programs currently in recruitment include Building Pathways and CDL A training. Graduates from completed programs are currently seeking employment or in retention phase of employment.
- T. Maloney shared information about employment opportunities at the UMASS COVID-19 Field Hospital. K. Lamoureux offered to share information about the openings with Worcester Jobs Fund graduates.

Building Pathways Outreach:

- K. Lamoureux stated that Worcester Jobs Fund staff is currently recruiting for the next cycle of Worcester Building Pathways. Virtual information sessions will be held in December 2020 and January 2021. K. Lamoureux noted that recruiting for the program is more challenging in the COVID-19 climate. A. Buduski noted that social media outreach is working for her community to connect with new students and alumni.
- K. Lamoureux opened a discussion around the need for a physical local for in-person classroom learning and physical assessment for applicants. Committee members suggested a variety of community locations that may have large indoor or outdoor spaces available. F. Taylor noted concerns about in-person assessment and instruction at the Carpenters Training Center due to current COVID-19 restrictions.

Grant Updates:

- K. Lamoureux highlighted that the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board was awarded \$19,970.81 for planning and design from the Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program. B. Mendelsohn provided a summary of the award and explained details of the community, training and employer partners. B. Mendelsohn noted that he needed updated contact information for the Dismas House and F. Taylor offered to connect him with program staff.
- K. Lamoureux provided a brief summary of the current Future of Work Grand Challenge Grant on behalf of the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board.

Other Items/Announcements:

- K. Pelletier opened the floor for additional announcements. F. Taylor noted that the NAACP is accepting new members and will be having their election in mid-January.

Adjourn:

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

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The next monthly meeting will be Tuesday December 22, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

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