

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

July 11, 2018

10:00 am

IBEW, 242 Mill Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: Karen Pelletier, David Minasian, Janice Ryan Weekes, Maritza Cruz, Karen King, Frank Kartheiser, and Thomas Maloney.

WJF Program Director: Kelsey Lamoureux

- 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 June 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from June 13, 2018 at 242 Mill Street were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by K. Pelletier and a second by M. Cruz.

WJF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux provided an update the Worcester Jobs Fund, Washington Square, and Department of Transportation funds.

WJF Director Report with Program Updates:

- K. Lamoureux provided updates on graduates from the EKG & Phlebotomy, Contact Center, CDL and Worcester Building Pathways trainings. K. Lamoureux highlighted that two graduates from the Worcester Building Pathways program were accepted as electrical apprentices with the IBEW Local 96. Additionally, another graduate from the Worcester Building Pathways program began work with the Worcester DPW&P and a graduate from the CDL B training program started work at the Walnut Hill Lawn Service. K. Lamoureux noted that many of the graduates from the EKG & Phlebotomy training program are working in healthcare, but having difficulty finding employment as phlebotomists. J. Weekes suggested having a focus group and K. King suggested working with the local community health centers. M. Cruz suggested exploring other career pathways in healthcare due to the high level of interest in the industry among applicants. K. Lamoureux reported that the Bounce Instruction for the Pharmacy Technician participants concluded on June 28, 2018 and that SNAP Outreach is on track with yearly goals.
- T. Maloney provided an update on the continued success of last year's Worcester Building Pathways graduate who is now a second year apprentice. T. Maloney reported that the graduate

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recently attended a conference for tradeswomen. T. Maloney also highlighted the details of the Massachusetts Equal Pay Act that went into effect July 1, 2018.

Other Items:

- K. Pelleteir provided updates on the Manufacturing Skills-Summer Program organized through the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Worcester Public Schools. K. Pelleteir noted that the program is fully funded by employers and even though 5 participants have already been selected, recruitment is ongoing until all seats are filled. The program will include a tour of a local manufacturing plant, an employer panel, as well as interviews for all graduates.
- K. Pelleteir also noted that the Worcester Public Schools has posted an opening for Coordinator of Night Life program and offered to share the link for the posting to be shared with community partners and staff.

Discussion fo FY 19 Budget:

- K. Lamoureux provided an overview of anticipated funding for Fiscal Year 19 including \$200,000 in City of Worcester tax levy funding and the remainder of the MA Department of Transportation, SNAP Outreach, and SNAP Employment and Training grants. K. Lamoureux also noted that staff time dedicated to providing work-readiness training to other partner programs will be funded through the Learn to Earn Grant and the Community Development Block Grant.
- K. Lamoureux provided background information on several possible job training programs to consider for FY 19. K. Pelleteir suggested the committee review the Central MA Regional Workforce Blueprint to ensure the Jobs Fund aligns trainings with identified local labor market needs. D. Minasian suggested reviewing the labor market demand for diesel technicians and entry level IT positions locally. T. Maloney suggested researching a welding certification job training program. K. Lamoureux proposed spending the majority of the time at the next meeting on FY 19 planning based on local labor market data.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by K. Pelletier, was seconded by J. Weekes and was unanimously approved.

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday August 8, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

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