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Baltimore Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes

Logistics

Date: December 17, 2021

Time: 8:00a.m-10: 00a.m

Location: Virtual via WebEx

Attendance:

Board Members:

Aaron Thompson, Bob Embry, Christopher McCoy, John C Weiss, John Danko , Mark Foster, Marc Broady, Marsha Netus, Marty Schwartz, Marci Hunn, Lisa Rusyniak, Rachel Pfeifer, Sara Cooper, Melanie Styles, Willy Moore, and Yariela Kerr-Donovan, Scott Harris, Senator Cory McCoy, Linda Perry, Tanya Terrell, Melanie Williams

Non-Board Members:

Mayor Brandon Scott, Deputy Mayor Ted Carter, Sharon Harrison, Ernesto Chanona, Althea Saunders-Ranniar, Amy Collier, Anne Allen, Michael D. Thomas, Brandon Scott, Brenda Sierra, Charles Marquette, Ché Evans, Catonya Lester, Craig Lewis, Ernest Dorsey, Jason Perkins-Cohen, Donnice Brown, Duane Williams Jr., Helany Sinkler, Krysti Dickerson, Kristi France-Gibbs, Linda Dworak, Maurice Blanding, Patti Morfe, Rosemary Woren, Shantrice Cooper-McKoy, Shvilla Rasheem, Yvette Clark, Jay Gruberger, Jesse Trahan, Jimmy Stewart, Joe Smith, Joseph Kim, Kathy Christian, Ken Lemberg, Kevin Mason, Louis Monk, Marvin Mckenstry, Merceditas Smith, Misty Allen, Michael Wells, Myisha Dixon-Henry, Peter Leaf, Quentin Salay, Rachael Neil, Rachel Brash, Roseanne Fish, Rosemary Woren, Ryan Smith, Tyrie Galloway, Keyarah Watson, Wendy Gordon, William Carnes, Yesy Barrera, Michael Fine, Rhonda Johnson

1. Welcome-BWDB Chair

Board Chair Yariela Kerr-Donovan welcomed attendees and Mayor Brandon Scott to December's Board meeting. Yariela asked for the minutes to be reviewed and approved following Mayor Scott's remarks.

2. Mayor Scott Comments

Mayor Scott thanked the Board and attendees for the opportunity to address the BWDB. Mayor Scott discussed and highlighted these key points:

- Preparing Baltimoreans for work and providing them training and upscaling their skills so they can work in the 21st century. In particular, Mayor Scott referenced; those clients that are too young to work, locked out of work, and those clients jobs that are gone.
- Investing in our people through ARPA investments through programs such as Train Up & HIRE Up.
- Mayor Scott asked for help in building more partnerships that does not exist.
- ARPA is the infrastructure build that is coming and will provide deeper opportunities for us to do generational things for our community.
- Focus on Maximizing on these opportunities for the residents of Baltimore.

3. Meeting Minutes & Overview

Yariela Kerr-Donovan reviewed the robust agenda following Mayor Scott's overview. The minutes from the previous board meeting were approved. Motion made by Lisa Rusyniak and 2nd by Bob Embry.

4. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update

Jason Perkins-Cohen displayed the potential proposals for funding under ARPA and briefly explained MOED's ARPA Projects summary initiatives (**see attached**):

- **Train Up:** Based heavily on 1b4J (One Baltimore 4 Jobs) - system building initiative. Made a lot of progress.
- **Hire Up:** Active transitional work program based on Baltimore HealthCorp & getting residents to work quickly, in a job, & providing them the support & navigation of services.
- **Wage Subsidy for small, minority- and women-owned businesses:** A new strategy supporting minority and women owned businesses in collaboration with the Baltimore Development Corporation. Expected to provide subsidy's in January 2022.
- **YouthWorks:** Adding a Youth Advisory Committee and YouthWorks Academy aimed to prepare young adults for Private Sector opportunities in the summer.
- **Rideshare transportation pilot:** This pilot partners with a rideshare program that will allow clients to get to and forth from work for up to 30 days.
- **Apprenticeships:** Clients can acquire an industry recognizable credential. This is a way to invest in both the people who will become apprentices and the employers.
- **Grads2Career:** An initiative that partners with the school system and Baltimore's Promise to target high school seniors that are not planning to go to college and do not have a firm employment plan. Provide them with free occupational training.

- **Community Job Hubs and mobile staff expansion:** MOED will expand partnerships and add 5 community job hubs and 2 mobile units.

5. ARPA Discussion & Breakout Session

Yariela Kerr-Donovan placed the attendees into five breakout rooms for 20 minutes with a recap from lead spokesperson following the sessions. The topics discussed in the rooms included:

- **Train Up-occupational training, literacy, & community connectors-** Conversation around the 17 selected providers and thoughts on how to support the providers and look critically at them as they come online. Also staying on top of the metrics as we move through the grant period.
- **Community Job Hubs-** Main observation was to make sure our selection process involved equity and that we are reviewing neighborhoods that are most in need.
- **YouthWorks, YouthWorks Academy, Youth Advisory Council-** Discussion on how to engage more private sector employers. One suggestion was to create job specs so employers can get a feel of some of the jobs the young people could do. Also, holding sessions with private sector employers on how to utilize young people working in there sites and how to market this to the private sector employees.
- **Wage Subsidy for Small Business-** Group members discussed the spirit behind this initiative and clarifying what a minority is (A small business and 51% of business must be owned by a woman or minority). Suggestions, point of contacts from the providers & many resources were discussed.
- **Ride share pilot for new job entrants-** Discussion around data collection & analyzation from this pilot on a broader scope. The Goal: To determine potential solutions involving van services and other long term solutions following the conclusion of the 30-day initiative.

6. MOED Updates

Jason Perkins-Cohen shared workforce metric slides for Baltimore city that is comparing data from pre-pandemic (February 2020) to current (December 2021).

- **City Employment Data-**
 - Unemployed population and rates are higher than before the pandemic started.
 - Total jobs in Baltimore City returned to pre-pandemic levels.
 - Average inflation-adjusted weekly wage returned to pre-pandemic levels in October 2021 after hitting 10-year high water mark. This coincided with a large drop in raw wages from September to October.

7. Committee Updates:

- **Board Updates** —Yariela Kerr-Donovan

- Welcomed new board members from employer sector that Mayor Scott and administration approved.
- Committee updates was distributed with meeting packet prior to board meeting, therefore, not discussed (**see attached document**).
- **Closing**
 - The Board Chair concluded the meeting thanking everyone for attending and displaying their continued support.