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Baltimore Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2022

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

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendance

Board Members:

Bob Embry, John C Weiss, Mark Foster, Marc Broady, Marsha Netus, Marty Schwartz, Marci Hunn, Lisa Rusyniak, Rachel Pfeifer, Sara Cooper, Melanie Styles, Willy Moore, and Yariela Kerr-Donovan, Linda Perry, Melanie Williams

Non-Board Members:

Jason Perkins-Cohen, Craig Lewis, Yvette Clark, Mackenzie Garvin, Patti Morfe, Brenda Sierra, Donnice E. Brown, Sharon Harrison, Kimberly Hamby, Jasmine Colbert, Joe Smith, Joseph Kim, Juanita Thomas, Julia Torchia, Kate Wolfson, Kim Knox, Kristi France-Gibbs, Krysti Dickerson, Linda Dworak, Lisa Cohn, Lynda Perry, Mackenzie Garvin, Melanie Williams, Mike Digiacomio, Nancy Jordan- Howard, Nikki Reed, Philip Leaf, Rachel Brash, Rosemary Woren, Ryan Smith, Tierra Mason, Tracy Queen, Ashley Cannon

Welcome - BWDB Chair Yariela Kerr-Donovan

Welcomed attendees and special guests to the September 2022 Board meeting and requested all attendees to sign in using the chat function. June 2022 Meeting Minutes were formally approved by the Board.

ARPA Update (MOED)

Jason Perkins-Cohen shared:

Progress to Date

- 1032 residents were served
- 22 residents were contracted by community partners
- 9 residents partnered with city agencies
- 129 Employer partners
- 8 Program funded and implemented

Julie Torchia shared:

Train Up - Network at- a- Glance

- JARC placed 4 graduates, with an average wage of \$20.75.
- NPower placed 1 graduate with a wage of \$18.00 hour.
- Vehicles for Change placed 2 graduates, with an average wage of \$22.50.
- 259 residents placed into training.
- 31 residents completed training
- 75 residents received certifications as of September 2022

Service Providers:

- Legal
- Behavioral Health
- Community Connectors
- Occupational Skills Training
- Adult Literacy
- Financial Empowerment Counseling
- Resources/Funders/TA

Hire Up

Tierra Mason shared:

- 144 participants have enrolled; the target is 330 by June of 2024
- 71 individuals are working on various worksites with a target goal was 55
- 44 individuals completed the program with a target of 75% enrollees, 83% of the participants are earning \$15 hourly which surpassed the 80% target goal.

Support Services Partners

Julie Torchia shared:

- South Baltimore Learning Corporation provides Adult Education services such as High School diploma or remediation's assistance to meet the reading and math levels in the assessments of the training programs.

Community Connectors: Baltimore Safe Haven, Fusion Partners and Goodwill Industries.

- These partners assist with direct job placement, job readiness and other support services.
 - 45 residents have received legal services since June 2022
 - 30 residents have received behavioral health services since August 2022

Small Minority or Women Owned Business Wage Subsidy

Yvette Clark shared:

- To date small minority or women owned business wage subsidy has hit the one million dollars, mark. Currently, one million and ninety-two dollars has been paid out to small minority, and women owned businesses.
 - 100 businesses have received subsidy
 - 169 subsidies paid to businesses
 - 94.6% of the employees retained after 10 weeks

Apprenticeships

Yvette Clark shared:

- Thirty-seven apprentices that have been registered with registered Maryland apprenticeships. To date, twenty-eight companies have submitted documents to the state to develop additional programs.

Rideshare Pilot- Let's Ride to Work:

Nikki Reed shared:

- Provides up to forty free rides to and from work for eligible Baltimore City, newly employed residents to date. Currently, fifty, one customer's received rides.

- 51 customers receiving rides since April 2022
- 959 rides were taken since April 2022 (increased from 477 in last month)

Community Job Hubs & Mobile Navigators

Craig Lewis shared:

- Community Job Hubs has three hubs funded under ARPA. Enoch Pratt Library, Our Daily Bread Employment Center and the newest hub that launched in August is the House of Ruth.
 - 174 residents served at new job hubs and by Mobile Navigators since March 2022

Baltimore Health Corps

Rachel Brash shared:

Employment Crisis

- Short-Term Employment Shock
- Long Term Sectoral Job Loss

Public Health Crisis

- Population Infection Risk
- Downstream Health Destabilization

Objectives:

- Address the needs of Baltimore's most vulnerable populations
- Contact Tracing and Public Outreach
- Launched in June 2020, pilot phase concluded in December 2021
- Employed 336 new community health workers, mainly as contract tracers and care coordinators

Baltimore Workforce Component

- **Inclusive, equitable hiring of workforce reflecting city's demographics**
- **CHW training for applicants**
- **Workforce supports for all staff**
 - Career navigation
 - Behavioral health support
 - Legal services
 - Financial empowerment counseling
 - Job placement assistance for post BHC employment

CHW Occupational Training

Rachel Brash shared:

- The Baltimore Alliance Core Healthcare (BACH) offered training that lasted four weeks
- One hundred slots were available ninety seven percent of them were filled.
- Twenty-three graduates were hired by the health core

CHW Occupational Training

- Offered by BACH to 100 residents to strength their BHC application
- Graduates of CHW course had higher than average retention
- 23 BACH graduates hired, 92% of BACH graduates still employed in July 2021, compared to 72% of non-BACH hires
- Average length of employment for separated employees: 308 days after starting for BACH completers, compared to 241 days overall

Workforce Supports Utilization

- Behavioral Health Services 140
- Career Navigation 291
- Financial Empowerment Counseling 25
- Legal Services 276

Totaling: 336

Post-BHC Employment Status

- 126 (38%) Still employed with Health Corps employer
- 119 (36%) New Opportunity
- 89 (27%) No known new opportunity

New employers include University of Maryland Medical Center, Social Security Administration, United Way of Central Maryland, Total Health Care, St. Agnes Healthcare, and Johns Hopkins University

Clean Corps (Dept. of Planning)

Ashley Cannon shared:

Clean Corps is an ARPA funded initiative that supports the Baltimore Department of Public Works' capacity to partner with neighborhoods in cleaning and maintaining community

- 33 Neighborhoods Were Chosen from the criteria.

Who can apply?

- Baltimore City based nonprofit organizations and Baltimore City community organizations with 501(c)3 designation is eligible to apply.

Scope of work:

- Empty selected public trashcans a minimum of daily
- Clean and mow the selected vacant lots every two weeks from April to October, clean selected vacant lots from November through March
- Clean selected alleys a minimum of weekly
- Cleaners must be paid a minimum of \$15 per hour
- Crew supervisors must be paid a minimum of \$20 per hour
- Service schedule is a minimum of 4 days per week at least 50 weeks per year, ending in January 2025
- Must hire a Baltimore city certified waste hauler to properly dispose of the collected waste and debris

Clean Corps collaboration with neighborhoods & City agencies

- Recruit, hire, train, and manage all Clean Corps employees
- Meet and/or talk to neighborhood leader (s) at least on a weekly basis
- Attend neighborhood association's meetings
- Attend Clean Corps training meetings with DPW, DOP, MOED, and other city agencies

YouthWorks Highlights

Donnice E. Brown shared:

- YouthWorks Academy 13-week virtual job readiness and life skills training preparation program provided to 73 youth between the ages of 16-18; the goal was to better prepare youth for private sector jobs
- YouthWorks Advisory Council (YAC) focused on youth engagement, gaining their perspective and youth leadership development. 10 young adults were engaged in the design, creation, and implementation of Youthworks programming; YAC members visited worksites and posted on YouTube- Money Monday, Worksite Wednesday and Bright Future Friday
- Year-round paid opportunities: In discussion with City Schools and partners to develop year-round programming likely focused on work-based learning and CTE

Closing

Meeting concluded by thanking everyone for attending and displaying their continued support.