



NEW ORLEANS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NOWDB Full Board
Draft Meeting Summary

March 9, 2020 | 11:00AM

Attendance

Members Present

Gregory Curtis
Missy Sparks
Thelma French
Claire Jecklin
Allen Square
Andrew O'Brien
Sunae Villavaso
Ameila Moore
Mikal Anderson
Allyson Wilson
Michael Fernandez
Alexis Korman
Michael Knapps
Rodney Wallis
Arlanda Williams
Peter Pappas

Board Staff & Guests

Karmen McKinley
Lori Boissiere
Tammie Washington
Sabrina Johnson
Verella Morris
Ada Kwanbunpen
Leonard Zanders
Angela Shiloh Cryer
Omar Stanton
Louis David
Jason DeGruy
Rochelle Brown
Arlett Tolliver

I. Call To Order

Board Chair Gregory Curtis called the meeting to order at 11:07am.

II. Roll Call

III. Board Chair Updates



United States Conference of Mayors meeting took place January 18-21, 2022, in Washington, DC. I participated in discussions surrounding WIOA, Training Opportunities and Workforce Development Council Presentations. Sunae was appointed to serve on the board of trustees with the Best Practices and Communications Committee.

United States Conference of Workforce Council - hosting this summer at the Windsor Court Sept 22-23, 2022. Please mark your calendars, board members will be called to volunteer. Chairman Curtis stated he really wants to showcase the city, possible tour, events, and dinner with a meet and greet on September 22, 2022.

National Association of Workforce Board - will be attending April 10-14 | this conference will unite leaders, policy makers and stake holders of all sorts through strategic solutions workshops. Chair Curtis will be participating in Workforce Issue Sessions discussing equity and inclusion, integrating work based learning and effective wrap around services

Replacement of Board Members

We are in the process of replacing board members. Mayor LaToya Cantrell has given her approval of the names submitted and we are now working through the process of having them sworn in.

Suri L Dutch, of Tulane University replacing *Shantay Bolten*
Dr. Jason Romero, Director of Adult Education-Delgado replacing *Erin Landry*
Jeffrey Martin, of Innovative Service Providers replacing *Dan Johnson*
Kellie Payne Spencer, Assistant Vice President Diversity & Social Awareness LCMC Health replacing *Chad Courage*
Jerry Repka, Director of Specialized Training with Central South Carpenters & Millwrights Training replacing *Hyma Moore*

Chair Curtis opened the floor for any questions or if any board members would like to volunteer for the USCM. Director Sunae Villavaso did not have any details to add regarding the board chair updates but indicated that the NOWDB Board Orientation will be scheduled for April 2022.

Chair Curtis stated to Ms. Villavaso that a call should be made to DC for the USCM to ask for guidance and will update the NOWDB members. Chair Curtis also asked for an update regarding the bylaws to present to the full board. Ms. Villavaso stated there were minor changes to the bylaws and was forwarded to Mr. Curtis for review. Ms. Villavaso requested that a special board meeting be called to review the bylaws, vote, and adopt.

IV. Board Staff Updates

Unemployment Statistics

OWD Deputy Director Sunae Villavaso briefed the NOWDB board regarding the City of New Orleans unemployment stats provided by the US Bureau of Labor reporting as of December 2021 the rate is 5.8% as compared to Jefferson Parish at a rate of 4.1%, St. Tammany 2.6% and St. Charles at 3.4%. Ms. Villavaso read a statement that indicated New Orleans has the highest unemployment rate among the largest metro area since June 2019. Ms. Villavaso recognized the unemployment rates is an issue prior to COVID and continues to be a concern in the city. The State of Louisiana (LWC) has



complied its numbers for unemployment based on individuals who have filed for unemployment and are receiving unemployment and based on the HIRE system the rate of unemployment for New Orleans is at 6.2%. Weekly reports indicate that 1600+ individuals are filing unemployment claims and 1000+ individuals are receiving unemployment benefits. In the state of Louisiana there are 32,738 vacancies and in New Orleans alone there are 2,000 vacancies which the root cause is accredited to staffing issues. Ms. Villavaso provided updates to the NOWDB board that Leonard Zanders and the Center team is increasing the traffic with partnerships with Bright Moments. Ms. Villavaso appeared on WWL TV Channel 4 to provide a commercial to drive people to the center. In addition, Ms. Villavaso inform the board that Peter Bowman is no longer employed by the City of New Orleans, Ms. Villavaso is reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Gilbert Montano. In speaking with the CAO, she referenced the "big picture" and the Great Resignation. Ms. Villavaso is moving into a work culture by providing guidance, assistance, and support (GAS) to the employees of the JOB1 Center which includes increasing wages and offering a day of remote work. Ms. Villavaso also stated that the center is actively working to have all JOB1 employees with at least an associate degree. Through the city's current partnership with Trellis, a non-profit college program developed here in New Orleans to be a fast-paced, flexible, and affordable college degree experience for working adults. It is a competency-based, fully accredited AA or BA degree path from Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). It allows employees flexibility by working on their degrees around their own schedules.

Mayor's Stimulus Command Force

Ms. Villavaso shared an update on the Mayor's Stimulus Command Force that consisted of several departments in the city. In workforce there were two committees which are Rapid Re-employment lead by Chair Gregory Curtis and Jobs for the Future led by Claire Jecklin. From the two committees it branched off into the Good Jobs Challenge which Hamilton Jones assist with requesting 25 million dollars in anticipation that the City of New Orleans will be awarded. It will be broken off into four areas which are:

Healthcare | Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF)
Advance Manufacturing | Greater New Orleans (GNO INC)
Transportation | Port of New Orleans
Blue and Green Infrastructure | New Orleans Business Alliance (NOLABA)

Funding

In previous conversations with Marlin Gusman, Ms. Villavaso shared with the board an initiative to train incarcerated individuals in the sunset of their prison term and assist with reducing recidivisms. GNO Inc joined the conversation and included Project Rebirth which developed a partnership with the Office of Workforce Development. OWD was awarded the Delta Regional Grant and will receive \$70,000 to train 40 incarcerated individuals. In addition, Louisiana Workforce Commission, Ava Cates (LWC) will provide an additional \$30,000 to the initiative.

IDA Grant

In early 2022, the City of New Orleans received funding connected with the WIOA Hurricane Ida Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant, totaling approx. \$1.248M.



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/JOB1

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Dedicated to providing 50 Temporary Employment opportunities for up to 12 months with wages starting at \$16/hour for up to 30 hours per week.

Approved positions include:

General Laborer

Neighborhood Navigator / Community Health Worker

Humanitarian Warehouse Worker

CDL / Heavy Machinery Operator

Careers Grant

OWD received 2.9 million dollars by a competitive bid through the Department of Labor. Individuals will receive a livable wage stipend at the rate of \$12.00 an hour up to 30 hours for 12 weeks while they train. Mayor LaToya Cantrell allocated \$500,000 from the Wisner Grant to assist with the Earn and Learn initiative.

Ms. Villavaso attended a meeting with Councilwoman Helena Moreno to address the youth summer employment. Ms. Villavaso did a presentation which provided information regarding the Youth Expo. Ms. Villavaso introduced Verella Morris who is the Director of Youth Initiatives. The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment wages have increased to \$15.00. The link for registration will be available on Tuesday March 15th and onsite registration will begin March 28th. Registration will end May 7th, 2022.

WIOA PY21

The Office of Workforce Development received the WIOA PY 21 report which provided an overview of performance in the employment areas. During the pandemic individuals did not have employment opportunities which cause a decrease in meeting the required stats in reporting.

V. Finance Report

OWD Fiscal Coordinator discussed in the detail the expenditures through January 31, 2022. The overall expenditure rate for the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs is at 48% slightly below where we should be with 19% of the grant life remaining on the carryover and 69% grant life remaining on current allocation. Staff explained that over 50% of the funds have been obligated and ensured that those obligations will be expensed by June 30, 2022.

During the review, staff provided and discussed different graphs and charts that clearly defines and shows by comparison the goals vs obligations vs expenditures. From the charts, the staff was able to show the committee where the gaps are and what is being done to close the gags. For Example, the training log indicates we are experiencing lag time between obligation and expenditures in ITA. Staff expects the gap to close significantly by end of quarter 3. Also, after reviewing the DLW chart staff indicates that the obligation rates for OJT are lagging. Staff has implemented a plan through employer engagement with city departments and the new CAREERS grant coming online. These two new strategies will yield considerable results by the end of the quarter. Staff noted that part of the low expenditures under the ITAs are in large part due to



Hurricane Ida. Several training providers and other partner entities experienced significant delays in resuming operations post-IDA.

Staff pointed out that the National Disaster Dislocated Worker grant which is supposed to expire in March 2022 but has been extended through December 2022. The extension will give more time in expending the remaining \$200,000 of which \$96k is already obligated.

The Office of Workforce Development was awarded \$1,248,139.01 in Disaster Dislocated Worker funding for Hurricane Ida. A budget ordinance request has been submitted to the budget office and will be submitted to the City Council to get the funds appropriated. Ms. Villavaso will be before the City Council budget committee March 17th, 2022.

The Director gave an overview of the Delta Regional Authority Project Rebirth grant that the Office of Workforce Development was awarded in Partnership with Greater New Orleans Development Foundation. The total grant award is \$200,000 of which \$68,600 is awarded to OWD. The grant will be used to build a Re-Entry Talent Pipeline by training inmates in the sunset of their term in Green Infrastructure. The term of the grant is February 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. This grant will have to go before the City Council as well, a date has not been provided at this time.

VI. Operator Report (February Report included)

Project Director Leonard Zanders gave the Equus Operator Report, he briefly reviewed the Adult Center, Dislocated Workers and Youth highlights and percentages, enrollment and placement goals achieved through February 2022. Mr. Zanders stated that the CDL training is a popular program, and the state has launched a program focusing on CDL and the numbers continue to rise.

Performance Highlights

Adult & Dislocated Workers

108 participants enrolled in WIOA during the month of February • 3 new individuals entered training during the month of February • JOB1 hosted a Career and Training Fair on 2/8 at Milne Rec Center Gym from 1pm - 4pm. 92 participants were in attendance with 8 Eligible Training Providers and additional Resource Partners on site.

Youth

Nine eligible youth members were enrolled into the WIOA program and are preparing to start participation in the youth center activities. • 125 work permits were issued in the month of February. • Six new youth members enrolled in the HiSET class for the month of February. • Four youth members received a recognized credential in February.

Disaster Dislocated Workers Grant (DDWG)



One participant began training at Coastal Truck Driving • Six participants entered permanent placements in the month of February • Four participants began working as Neighborhood Navigators earning \$18 per hour • One participant began working as a Medical Assistant earning \$15 per hour • One participant began working as an Office Assistant II earning \$15 per hour.

Mardi Gras Clean Up

Returning for the first time since the pandemic, the JOB1 Mardi Gras Clean-up Initiative (held in conjunction with the City of N.O. Sanitation Department) commenced with a series of hiring events in early January 2022. Following pre-registration and completion of the required Work Readiness session, over 300 temporary workers were hired to execute this initiative. Beginning on Friday, February 18th, and continuing through Mardi Gras Day on Tuesday, March 1st, these workers performed clean up duties following the conclusion of parades, restoring the City to a pre-Mardi Gras condition, aesthetically speaking. This necessary task plays an integral part in the local Mardi Gras cycle, and invested nearly \$150K in wages, helping to support the local economy and the personal economies of community members most in need. This year's plan was admirably executed during this post-COVID environment and concluded without significant incident. Thank you much to JOB1 Team, the Sanitation Department and everyone that made this initiative a success.

Past Events

Tuesday, February 1st Law Enforcement Job Fair @ JOB1 Wednesday, February 2nd Re-Entry Job Fair @ Milne Rec Center Saturday February 5th Neighborhood Job Fair @ Allie Mae Williams Multi-Purpose Center Thursday, February 10th Transportation Job Fair @ JOB1 Thursday, February 17th After Hours Job Fair @ JOB1 Thursday, February 24th Healthcare Job Fair @ JOB1 Feb 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd Easy Virtual Hiring Events

VII. NOLABA Report

Ms. Angela Shiloh Cryer reported for NOLABA Q4, 2021 TALENT SOLUTIONS PERFORMANCE REPORT.

Performance Highlights

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)

2021 Highlights:

- Participants Completed 107
- Earning Living Wage 50
- 137 referrals to CEO
- 107 participants completed Pathways to Employment job readiness training
- 105 participants were hired on transitional jobs as CEO employees, currently working on transitional crews with CEO (includes safety boots, safety vest, transportation, cleaning materials, daily pay)



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- 42 participants placed to permanent employment receiving retention services for 365 days
- 50 participants actively on daily work crews and receiving weekly job coaching and placement services

United Way Financial Readiness

IDA program - participants save \$500 in individual savings and NOLABA provides each participant with \$2000. The program will change to assist college students at HBCU. The schools included are Xavier University, Dillard University and Southern University.

2021 program year - 19 graduates

- 7 participants utilized funds to assist with purchasing a vehicle
- 5 participants utilized funds toward - post secondary education
- 7 participants utilized funds toward Entrepreneurship
- Financial Coaching Participants - 71
- Average Credit Score Increase - 32
- Average Savings - \$550
- Average Debt Reduction - \$430

Mr. Curtis asked Ms. Cryer to provide the contact information for CEO to initiate a collaboration with workforce and the DDD to aid individuals in the downtown area.

Administrative Update

Any board members whose contact number has changed please email Karmen McKinley at klmckinley@nola.gov so that the board directory can be updated.

Committee Chairs will be contacted to schedule meetings in order report to the full board at the next board meeting.

VIII. Open Discussion

IX. Upcoming Meetings

- Full Board Meeting - Wednesday, May 11 at 11 am

X. Public Comments

Sally Stevens Cooperation New Orleans would like to work with JOB1. Sunae Villavaso will schedule a meeting to discuss partnerships with the organization. Ms. Stevens provided her contact information to Karmen McKinley.

XI. Adjourn



Mr. Curtis moved for a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Claire Jecklin provided a motion for the meeting to be adjourned and Andrew O'Brien second the motion. There was no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 12:04pm.

