



**NEW ORLEANS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

NOWDB Full Board

Draft Meeting Summary

May 11, 2022 | 11:00AM

Attendance

Members Present

Gregory Curtis
Melissa Sparks
Allen Square
Thelma French
Floyd James
Arlanda Williams
Allyson Wilson
Jeffery Martin
Suri Duitch
Peter Papas
Sunae Villavaso

Board Staff & Guests

Karmen McKinley
Tammie Washington
Sabrina Johnson
Verella Morris
Ada Kwanbunbumpen
Leonard Zanders
Angela Shiloh Cryer
Harrison Crabtree
Tiffany Duplantis
Idell Woods - Arnaud
Jason Deguy
Arlett Tolliver
Josh Tatum

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Gregory Curtis called the meeting to order at 11:04 am.

II. Roll Call

III. BOARD CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Curtis began with introductions of the new NOWDB board members that were officially sworn in. After which the current NOWDB members introduced themselves. Chair Curtis notified board members that Goodwill Industries is expanding and will be needing the space that the City of New Orleans is currently leasing for the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) and the JOB1 Business and Career



Solutions Center. The City of New Orleans is currently looking for a new location to house OWD and JOB1.

Chair Curtis stated that he along with Sunae Villavaso attended The Forum, powered by the National Association of Workforce Boards. The conference this year was the place and time for the workforce system to reflect on the past and prepare for the future. It's the nation's largest annual workforce development conference, with a convocation of the leaders, stakeholders, and policy makers with the power to drive positive change. This year, we met amid a moment of both critical needs and transformational change. Workforce issues are driving today's headlines, and the workforce system must rise to the occasion with creative solutions to bring forth change.

Chair Curtis also indicated that he along with Sunae Villavaso and Co-Chair Missy Sparks will be attending the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council (WDC) Annual Meeting in Reno, NV. The WDC Annual Meeting will be held on June 3-4, and will run concurrently with the U.S Conference of Mayors' 90th Annual Conference. The WDC's 2022 Annual Meeting is an in-person event and will take place at The Peppermill Resort. Priorities identified by the 80th President of The United States Conference of Mayors, Miami Mayor Francis X. Suarez, for the Annual Meeting include: the intersection of public safety and technology; the new crypto economy; and economic opportunities for cities of all sizes resulting from the new remote workforce and bringing emerging and digital-based businesses to cities.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Draft Board Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2022

Motion made by Thelma French and second by Allen Square. To approve the March 9, 2022 Board Meeting minutes. There were no oppositions, and none abstained. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Please note: Per Board Chair Gregory Curtis according to the Open Meeting Law - Committees meetings can continue remotely unless there are action items, the committee will have to push those items to the full board meetings or meet in person to discuss.

Chair Curtis asked Tammie Washington to discuss the changes made in the bylaws. Sunae Villavaso stated there are grammatical errors to change. Ms. Washington referred to page 9 and noted that the proposed bylaws document adds a Parliamentarian as a new Board officer. Mr. Curtis stated the parliamentarian would be added to the executive committee. Ms. Washington also referred to the changes for the elections to July 1st of each even year. Chair Curtis stated he normally has the committee chairs to serve as ad hoc and that will continue. Ms. Washington referred to the meeting schedule, asking will meetings move to quarterly, and pointing out the NOWDB board meets bimonthly. The Chair responded stating that we will leave in the bylaws to maintain the language of quarterly but will continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis. In addition, Ms. Washington indicated page 13 that we remove the first sentence that states private sector members should lead the standing committees. The Board agrees that standing committees can be lead by both private sector and public sector members.



ACTION ITEM: Approval of NOWDB Bylaws

Motion made by Peter Pappas and seconded by Sunae Villavaso to approve the proposed revised Bylaws with requested revisions. There were no oppositions, and none abstained. Motion was passed by unanimous decision.

IV. BOARD STAFF REPORT

OWD Director Sunae Villavaso provided the unemployment statistics for the month of March 2022. Ms. Villavaso introduced Harrison Crabtree and Josh Tatum of Greater New Orleans Inc and stated that this would be a great opportunity for them to present the JOBs report to the NOWDB board.

V. PRESENTATION OF JOBS REPORT

Harrison Crabtree of Greater New Orleans Inc (GNO Inc) provided an overview of what GNO Inc is. GNO, Inc. is the economic development organization for the 10-parish region of Southeast Louisiana. The GNO Jobs report provides research and data that aims to inform workforce development investments, policies, and programming, as well as talent attraction and retention initiatives, in the region. Data indicates that the higher the level of training and education a worker has, the more likely they are to be insulated from job loss and benefit from higher earnings.

- ❖ The annual unemployment rate in 2020 for those with a bachelor's degree was 5.5% compared to 9% for those with only a high school diploma and 11.7% for those with less than a high school diploma
- ❖ 25% of the employed workforce nationally held a license or certification, only 14% of unemployed workers possessed a certification or license
- ❖ Workers that possess a certification or license earn \$276 more than those without a certification or license.

The Greater New Orleans region has a rich history when it comes to advanced manufacturing. Home to NASA Michoud Assembly Facility, major hightech manufacturers, and legacy food manufacturers, the sector provides thousands of highwage, high-growth jobs across the region. GNO, Inc. has implemented initiatives and programming that are designed to augment educational attainment gaps through market awareness, clear communication around industry demand, skills analyses, industry trends, and evolving technologies.

VI. NOWDB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports are attached for review for reporting purposes.

Please note action below for Program and Services Committee.



Programs and Services Committee

Ms. Thelma French reported to the Board that the Programs and Services Committee discussed increasing the needs-related payment rate for the WIOA programs and the CAREER Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) programs to \$20.00 per day. The needs-related payments are provided to eligible participants enrolled training to provide the financial support needed to enable them to participate in training. The current Board approved needs-related payment rate is \$10.40 per day, which has not been increased since the implementation of WIOA in 2014. The recommendation for the increase is due to increase of items such as the cost of gas and food, which are needs of participants enrolled in training.

The Committee discussed if the current program budget would support the increase in the needs related payment rate. Staff reported that the CAREER DWG has adequate support services funding available to support the increase. The increase in the rate for the WIOA programs may result in less participants receiving supportive services. The Committee approved passing the recommendation to increase the needs-related payment to \$20.00 per for the CAREER DWG only at this time. Additionally, the CAREER DWG discussed passing the recommendation to increase the needs-related payment rate for the WIOA programs to the Finance Committee to discuss the fiscal impacts on the budget.

Action 1 – To approve the increase in supportive services for the CAREER DWG

Action 2 - pass this recommendation to the Finance Committee to review the WIOA budget impacts

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Needs Related Payment Rate for the CAREER Dislocated Worker Grant
Motion made by Thelma French and seconded by Suri Duitch to approve increasing the supportive services needs-related payment rate to \$20.00 per day for the CAREER Dislocated Grant. There were no oppositions, and none abstained. The motion was passed by unanimous decision.

The Board approved increasing the needs-related payment rate to \$20.00 per day for the CAREER DWG and passing the recommendation to increase the needs-related payment rate for the WIOA programs to the NOWDB Finance Committee to review the fiscal impacts before an increase is approved.

VII. OPERATOR REPORT

Project Director Leonard Zanders reported performance highlights from the following areas for the month of April 2022.

Adult & Dislocated Workers

125 participants enrolled in WIOA during the month of April. • 24 new individuals entered training during the month of April. • JOB1 Is working in collaboration with Greater New Orleans Development Foundation and the Louisiana Parole Project to build awareness, action, and employer engagement to



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provide re-entry individuals in the Greater New Orleans area with a second chance through a stable career pathway while also addressing unmet hiring needs of employers. The initiative will target three industry sectors: Construction, Food Manufacturing, and Non-Clinical Healthcare.

Youth

Nineteen eligible youth members were enrolled into the WIOA program for the month of April and began participating in Youth Center's activities. • Two hundred and forty work permits were issued in the month of April. • Six youth members are currently testing for their HiSET diplomas. • Eight youth members were placed with an employer to participate in the work experience opportunity.

Dislocated Workers Grant

There are five DDWG-COVID Grant participants remaining in temporary employment. They have been extended to 06/30/2022. • 60 participants have been enrolled in the CAREERS Grant and of those, 25 participants have begun training. • In April, seven DDWG-IDA participants began temporary work assignments for the Mayor's Clean Up – Strike Team. Six has been assigned to the Department of Sanitation and one has been assigned to the French Market Corporation.

Business Solutions – Events

- April 6th, and 13th Easy Virtual Hiring Event
- Tuesday April 12th Youth and Young Adult Expo
- Thursday April 21st After Hours Event @ JOB1 Friday and Saturday
- April 22nd, 23rd, and 29th Algiers's Community Event
- Tuesday April 26th Re-entry Event Offsite
- Thursday April 28th Multi-Industry Job Fair

VIII. NOLABA REPORT

Angela Shiloh Cryer reported performance highlights for the United Way Readiness Program for the month of April 2022.

The New Orleans Business Alliance (NOLABA) has partnered with United Way of Southeast Louisiana (UWSELA) and representatives from each of the city's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to provide a new matched savings account, financial capacity-building, and career development program for students enrolled at Xavier University of Louisiana, Dillard University, and Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO).



The “HBCU Student Prosperity Project” is a NOLABA initiative in partnership with UWSELA’s Individual Development Account (IDA) Project to provide financial capacity for hard-working sophomores, juniors, and seniors attending HBCUs through a 4:1 match on their savings and connections to credit counseling, financial education, and asset-specific training.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

OWD Executive Assistant Karmen McKinley updated members regarding the 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure that should be submitted by May 15th. Ms. McKinley asked all members to complete the member profile sheet so that the board directory can be updated and disseminated. Ms. McKinley also asked all board members who are not currently active on a sub committee to please sign up for one immediately after the meeting.

X. OPEN DISCUSSION

There was no open discussion.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

XII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:03pm. Motion made by Thelma French to adjourn.

