



**NEW ORLEANS  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

NOWDB Full Board

JOB1 Business and Career Solutions Center | 1307 Oretha Castle Haley – New Orleans, LA

Draft Meeting Summary

June 14, 2023 | 11:00AM

**Attendance**

**Members Present**

Arlanda Williams  
Claire Jecklin  
Rodney Wallis  
Allyson Wilson  
Rachel Mackey  
Katherine Felton  
Connie Carlson  
Peter Pappas  
Mikal Anderson  
Andrew O'Brien  
Angelle Hava

**Staff and Guests**

Sunae Villavaso  
Tammie Washington  
Sabrina Washington  
Karmen McKinley  
Ada Kwanbunbumpen  
Lori Boiserie  
Leonard Zanders  
Sheermeka Mitchell  
Arlett Tolliver  
Angela Shiloh Cryer  
Jason DeGruy  
Sedrick Alphonso  
Samantha Williams  
Edward Smith  
Melissa Grimmeth  
Joel Morgan

Board Members that attended the meeting virtually : Dottie Bellato



## **I. Call To Order**

Board Member Arlanda Williams called the meeting to order at 10:43AM

## **II. Roll Call**

Karmen McKinley completed a roll call of NOWDB members that were present. Board Chair Gregory Curtis acknowledged a quorum was met.

## **III. Board Chair Updates**

Please note for the record that NOWDB members or members of the public who are participating via Zoom can submit comments or questions on the chat box and the Board Chair will recognize all public comments at the appointed time of the meeting.

### **Introductions ordered by Arlanda Williams**

#### **Approval of the NOWDB Full Board Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Motion by: Andrew O'Brien**

**Second by: Rodney Wallis**

**No Opposition**

#### **Approval of the NOWDB Youth Committee Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Motion by: Andrew O'Brien**

**Second by: Rodney Wallis**

**No Opposition**

#### **Approval of the NOWDB Business Committee Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Motion by: Andrew O'Brien**

**Second by: Rodney Wallis**

**No Opposition**

#### **Approval of the NOWDB Executive Committee Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Motion by: Andrew O'Brien**

**Second by: Rodney Wallis**



## **No Opposition**

Melissa Grimmett, who serves as the Louisiana Workforce Commission's Technical Assistance Manager, provided training for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Board Composition and Certification Training to the Board. The Board members also received copies of the PowerPoint presentation that she presented.

## **IV. Board Staff Updates/ Program Oversight Report**

Board Director, Sunae Villavaso, updated the board regarding the two board members that will be replaced on the NOWDB board and asked the board members to recommend individuals in the business category.

Good Jobs Challenge was chosen to be a part of the Learning Network which includes the following partners:

- Chuck Norris – Thrive New Orleans
- Claire Jecklin – New Orleans Career Center
- Andrew O'Brien – Southeast Louisiana Building and Construction Trades Council
- Rodney Wallis – Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union

Director Villavaso discussed the ARPA Budget which was approved for \$11 million awarded to begin the innovative programming with our backbone organizations and to create the framework to begin in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year (2023).

In lieu of the decrease in WIOA grant funds of \$1 million, it is tentatively proposed to decrease services/training and will have an impact on placement in addition to possible cuts in JOB1's WIOA personnel. This budget cut is intended to impact employment of 3-5 people on the Equus contract. City of New Orleans bore 33% of the impact of the budget change. Director Villavaso is trying to understand the justification of the budget cut and has requested the formula which was used to calculate the allocations provided to local areas. OWD is exploring ways to see how to move the ARPA funds to the Equus contract to supplement WIOA staffing and provide the services to the citizens.

## **V. Youth Committee Report**



The projected number of applicants to participate is 1040. There are 642 applicants currently processed, and 646 spots reserved for partners. Registration is still open online to attend an application session. The deadline for all applications is May 26, 2023. Youth Committee member Connie Carlson stated that recently there was a graduation at Job Corps where Congressman Troy Carter was the speaker, and Congressman Carter can assist with disseminating information about the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program on his newsletter. Youth Committee Chair, Claire Jecklin, stated she will send out to all partners so the information can be disseminated prior to the deadline.

Committee Chair Jecklin shared those previous conversations started by former board member Hyma Moore engaging the committee regarding increasing accountability across the eco systems, placing metrics/indicators and creating a Data Driven system to understand what the youth population looks like and measuring success. The Committee Chair identified other key areas to focus on and emphasized the approach Youth Initiatives should take towards its current work and upcoming initiatives. Committee Chair Jecklin also stated that the committee is excited to have identified a youth participant to sit on the committee.

**Approval to deviate from the agenda to allow Angela Shiloh Cryer to present for NOLABA.**

**Motion by: Andrew O'Brien**

**Second by: Rodney Wallis**

**No Opposition**

**VI. NOLABA Report**

Angela Shiloh Cryer presented the NOLABA report which included the System change in the grant. NOLABA is working with project managers from the Office of Economic Development, Office of Supplier Diversity, and Office of Resiliency. This grant will increase businesses with licenses and certifications in blue/green industries and assist BIPOC entrepreneurs to prepare for future contract opportunities.

Ms. Cryer also discussed the \$5 million dollar grant funded by J.P. Morgan Chase which includes 11 partners – (managed by NOLABA):

- Objective 1: Actively build public, private, and community partnerships that increase access for individuals and small businesses to fully benefit from economic opportunities available in our blue/green economy.



Partners: City of New Orleans, Thrive New Orleans, YouthForce NOLA, Delgado Community College, LA Green Corps, Urban League of Greater New Orleans and the University of New Orleans

- Objective 2: Expand the capacity and resources of small businesses, particularly disadvantage business enterprises and businesses owned by people of color.

Partners: City of New Orleans, GoBe, Thrive New Orleans, Urban League of LA, NewCorp and Propeller

Below is the chart presented for the HBCU Prosperity Grant that Ms, Cryer expounded on in the meeting.

# Enrolled (IDA Approval Letter signed and Opened IDA Savings account)in the HBCU	29
# Intakes Completed	69
# Students – received financial education	27
# Students – saved \$500 or more	18
# Students – completed program and received 4:1 match	24
# Students – received credit counseling	19

**Approval for a motion to go back into order.**

**Motion by: Andrew O’Brien**



**Second by: Rodney Wallis**

**No Opposition**

## **VII. Business Engagement Committee Report**

Committee Chair Arlanda Williams talked about the CLEANPOWER industry that brings together the most knowledgeable minds in the clean energy industry and creates a collaborative platform for discussing issues that are important to industry professionals and their companies. Ms. Williams would like the Business Engagement Committee to venture out to explore energy type organizations and how we can develop programs with the education sector, healthcare, unions, hospitality while developing a workforce for all these industries. Chair Williams would like to start conversations around CLEANPOWER's mission to bring together the different technologies that make up the renewables mix; but also, the different segments within the industries; manufacturers, construction firms, owner operators, utilities, financial firms, corporate buyers and more.

The BEC is starting the planning phase of putting together training programs/dashboards for the Incumbent Worker Training Program (IWTP) funding which helps your current workforce and incumbent workers to upskill the workers that are working for you. The IWTP is a partnership between the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), business and industry, and training providers. The IWTP is designed to benefit business and industry by assisting in the skill development of existing employees and thereby increasing employee productivity and the growth of the company. These improvements are expected to result in the creation of new jobs, the retention of jobs that otherwise may have been eliminated, and an increase in wages for trained workers. Chair Williams also shared information that resources are available through the Incumbent Worker Training Program (IWTP), which is a partnership among the Louisiana Department of Labor (LDOL), business and industry, and training providers. These improvements are expected to result in the creation of new jobs, the retention of jobs that otherwise might have been eliminated, and an increase in wages for trained workers. The program is funded by a portion of Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax contributions dedicated solely for customized training.

## **VIII. JOB1 Operator's Report**

JOB1 Project Director, Leonard Zanders, presented the dashboard for service delivery activities. JOB1 opened the doors to the new facility in April 2023. Project Director Zanders continued the discussion that the numbers are starting to rebound to our Tulane Av office numbers in May. JOB1 anticipates the numbers will uptick as JOB1 continues to roll out their outreach campaign.



**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/JOB1**

**June 14, 2023**

It will continue its rotating partnerships with the libraries 1 day a week, and they encourage to keep the partnership moving forward. Mr. Zanders provided the following additional programmatic updates:

- Work Permits – down 1 day due to electricity
- MFS housed the work permits service without interruption.
- Dryades YMCA offered their building to continue service.
- Walk in Wednesday – A new initiative to brand the One Stop operator vision to have partners and employers in the JOB1 Center on the same day. Every Wednesday job seekers will be able to access the services of multiple partners and search for employment.
- Employer Round Table – June 21<sup>st</sup>
- Targeting On-the-Job (OJT) training opportunities with local employers. OJTs will be a conflict of interest to initiate with NOWDB board members.

#### **IX. Open Discussion**

There was no open discussion.

#### **X. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

**Motion by: Claire Jecklin**

**Second by: Rodney Wallis**

**No Opposition**

The meeting adjourned at 12:31pm.

