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Highlights from WIB Quarterly Meeting on September 18, 2013

OHCD staff shared recent progress achieved and outlined plans for the near future related to OHCD's work on several priority projects. OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light unveiled the first annual report of the office, [OHCD: A Year in Review](#), as well as the newly-revamped website, www.nyc.gov/ohcd. Then she turned it over to the OHCD team:

- Cesar Cardenas provided updates on governance-related duties, such as WIB membership appointments; newly required financial disclosures of WIB members; the US Department of Labor's oversight of National Emergency Grant funds; and MOUs crafted between the WIB and One Stop Centers.
- Katherine Klem shared efforts to improve the customer experience, like a pilot Open Seat Locator that will provide information, updated regularly on nyc.gov, about adult education classes that are open for enrollment. OHCD is also beginning to explore a possible initiative to better understand how New Yorkers access, navigate through and experience services.
- Todd Levinson previewed OHCD's research agenda, including several graphs from a preliminary analysis of federal, state, city, and private dollars that support City agencies' workforce development and adult education services. In addition, he explained how OHCD is building upon this research to further system-wide knowledge.
- Liz Voigt discussed OHCD's role in helping the City to address four issues arising as New York State transitions from the GED® to TASC as a pathway to a high school equivalency (HSE) degree: communications to test takers and employers, computer infrastructure, professional development, and policies and programs to increase test readiness. Liz also briefed the WIB on the progress of WIA reauthorization legislation in Congress.

NYCHA General Manager Cecil House presented about the Housing Authority's transition from a focus on service provision to service coordination, particularly to empower residents toward economic self-sufficiency. Mr. House shared key components of NYCHA's new place-based model, including 15 zone coordinators and a web-based referral system to connect residents to services across the City. He emphasized NYCHA's strong partnership with other City agencies, like the NYC Department of Small Business Services and the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity. Mr. House noted the impressive return on investment for NYCHA: \$1.70 in economic activity results from every dollar spent.

WIB Member Les Bluestone shared reflections on his experience visiting Green City Force in Red Hook, Brooklyn. In July 2013, Mr. Bluestone joined OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light to see this program in action, which is one of NYCHA's local community partners and which trains young people for green jobs. He described the tremendous value of this program, including its ability to change the lives of program participants. Mr. Bluestone noted that one woman had never traveled outside her neighborhood before joining Green City Force. "She was so proud of that fact alone," he remembered. "You could see it in her demeanor."

Reminder for December 2013 WIB Quarterly Meeting

The next WIB Quarterly Meeting will be held from 8:30-10:30am on December 12, 2013 at 110 William Street, 4th Floor Board Room, in Manhattan. Please RSVP by November 27, 2013 to Cesar Cardenas (ccardenas@ohcd.nyc.gov).

Written September 19, 2013