

QUARTERLY MEETING

110 William Street, 4th Floor
New York, New York

Thursday, June 20, 2013
8:30 – 10:30 AM

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

William Abramson	Ester Fuchs	Jeanne Mullgrav
Laurice Arroyo	Edward Jay Goldberg	George Ntim
Horace Barker	Kathleen Kearns	Robert Purga
Scott Berger	Rae Linefsky	Rose Rodriguez
Les Bluestone	Joseph McDermott	Deirdre Scott
Ben Branham	John Mogulescu	Maria Serrano
Arnold Dorin	Thomas Moloney	Dennis Walcott
Reg Foster	Kristin Morse	Richard Windram

Guests Present:

Maris Arce	Nikki Georges-Clapp	Annie Norbeck
David Berman	Dale Grant	Deldreana Peterkin
Stephen Cacale	Lesley Hirsch	Merrill Pond
Andrew Campbell	Ronnie Kauder	Lincoln Restler
Bruce Carmel	Lea Kilraine	Edison Reyes
Karen Coleman	Geoffrey Knox	Sara Schlossberg
Steven Dawson	Somdalaya London	Katie Schwab
Ronald Day	Nnenna Lynch	Maria Semani
Nathan Denison	Suzanne Lynn	Sharon Sewell-Fairman
Evelyn Fernandez-Ketcham	Chris Neale	Nayes Shy
Romain Fravien	Jeanette Nigro	Patrick Van Sluytman
		Deputy Mayor Robert K. Steel

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 6, 2012 and March 20, 2013 meetings of the New York City Workforce Investment Board (WIB) were approved.

Chairman's Report

Ms. Kearns welcomed the Board. She began the meeting by announcing the approval of the FY 2014 budget by the Executive Committee and noting the importance of the pending Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization.

Ms. Kearns then publicly thanked Deldreana Peterkin for her 10 years of service to the WIB. Ms. Peterkin accepted the thanks of the WIB. Next, Ms. Kearns thanked Deputy Mayor Steel for his presence at the WIB Meeting, and invited him to speak.

Deputy Mayor Steel acknowledged the role of the WIB and expressed the gratitude of the Mayor to the WIB for the expertise and industry connections that they contributed to New York City's workforce development efforts. He expressed optimism for the bill A7911/S5773, which is scheduled to be voted on during the final days of the legislative session. He also praised Michelle Light for quickly building the NYC Office of Human Capital Development (OHCD) team to support the City's realignment of workforce initiatives.

Ms. Light then contributed to the Ms. Kearns' updates by again thanking Ms. Peterkin, detailing the process and prospects for WIA reauthorization, and explaining the work of the new OHCD team to map funding flows and plan the transition from GED to a new state test. This new test will be academically more rigorous and eventually will be administered with computers. OHCD is also helping the NYC Department of Probation help identify and encourage partial passers of the GED to pass the GED before the state fully transitions to the new test in January 2014. Lastly, Ms. Light invited WIB members to join OHCD for an upcoming visit on July 19th to a NYCHA Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability program site and explained how field trips to workforce training programs outside of the local WIA system would help WIB members understand the larger workforce development system.

Cesar Cardenas, of OHCD, then read the proposed by-law amendments, which the Board approved by resolution.

Committee Updates

Kathy Kearns, also Chair of the Executive Committee, reported to the Board that at the last Executive Committee meeting, Members approved the \$47 million NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) budget. She informed the Board about progress of the Home Health Aid training programs and SBS proposals for Occupation Skills Training and Web Development Training developed in partnership with external partners.

Next, Jeanne Mullgrav, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, gave the members a brief update of the Youth Board/Youth Council meeting. She informed the Board of the donations from the Mayor's fund that had contributed to the success of 400 worksites for youth around the city. She also mentioned the efforts of Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs to connect youth to families for improved life outcomes.

WIB Member Reflection

George Ntim, a WIB member representing Marriot International, discussed his experience visiting Food & Finance High School with members of the OHCD team, the accomplishments of the institution in helping youth access new skills, and the opportunities for improvement. He emphasized the potential to add management skills to the students' skill set, and expressed need for education regarding opportunities in hospitality, especially as it is different from managing an independently-run restaurant. He also informed the Board of his invitation to the Food & Finance students to visit Marriot Marquis for a tour. Ms. Light then facilitated a conversation between Mr. Ntim and the Board regarding barriers employers experience in providing internships to students, particularly around workers compensation insurance challenges.

Panel Discussion

Next, Sherazade Langlade introduced four guest panelists: Steven L. Dawson of the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute, Jeanette Nigro of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Merrill Pond, of Partnership for New York City, and Lincoln Restler of the New York City Employment and Training Coalition. Each panelist presented information about the work of their organization, the most recent data that their organizations have generated regarding the state of New York City's workforce, and recommendations for improvement. Ms. Langlade then facilitated a conversation between the panelists and the WIB.

Major issues discussed included:

- Generating "high-quality" low-wage jobs that give jobseekers a career pathway
- Improving the potential for promotions within industries
- Coordinating workforce development efforts across the public, private, and non-profit sectors
- Increasing placement opportunities by engaging employers, especially small businesses
- The need for sustained training and updating training course material
- Securing jobs for New York City natives while accommodating outside jobseekers
- Statistics on the recession recovery conceal change in job types and wage levels
- Convening jobseekers and employers through one unified hiring mechanism
- Targeting particular sectors and industries while appreciating often-ignored sectors like the non-profits
- Attracting additional resources for workforce development programs in light of funding reductions

Conclusion

Following the business described above, the meeting was adjourned.