

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD QUARTERLY MEETING

110 William Street, 4th Floor Conference Room
New York, New York 10038
Friday, April 7, 2017
8:30 – 10:30 AM

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Husam Ahmad	Arnold Dorin	Chauncy Lennon
Laurice Arroyo	Mark Elliott	John Mogulescu
Eileen Auld	Lenore Friedlaender	Jocelyne Rainey
Amy Bennett	Henry Garrido	Melanie Hart (D)
Scott Berger	Laura James	Daphne Montanez (D)
Les Bluestone	Caress Kennedy	Lusheena Warner (D)

(D) = Designee

Guests Present:

Dalsie Andrade	Lark Jackson	Frances Sadler
Karen Bornarth	Jesse Laymon	Valerie Westphal
Doug Cotter	Sharon Margolis	Shammara Wright
Kelly Dougherty	Wai Wendy Ng	
Jeremy Hoffman	Ashley Putnam	

Staff Present:

Sarah Bennett	Reynold Graham	Chris Neale
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WDB Chair Report

Laurice Arroyo, Workforce Development Board (WDB) Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board's guests. Ms. Arroyo gave a brief overview of the agenda items, which included an update on the Board's campaign to support the city's summer youth internship programs and a briefing on the current federal budget climate from Melinda Mack, Executive Director of the New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals (NYATEP).

Update from the Department of Small Business Services

Melanie Hart, Deputy Commissioner of the Workforce Development Division at the Department of Small Business Services (SBS), highlighted the agency's new training and employment initiatives to help New Yorkers build skills and connect to jobs.

The West Farms Workforce1 Career Center opened in October 2016 and targets out-of-school, out-of-work young adults aged 18 to 24. Services include occupationally contextualized high school equivalency courses hosted on site and workshops tailored to the specific needs of young adults in or entering the workforce. This center was launched in partnership with the Department of Education – supporting High School Equivalency instruction – and the Human Resources Administration.

In addition, Ms. Hart shared highlights from a number of SBS' training programs. The Web Development Fellowship, launched out of the Tech Talent Pipeline, is a 22-week long training program designed to equip New Yorkers with the skills necessary to launch careers in web development at salaries of at least \$65,000. Training is delivered by the Flatiron School, with support from the Robin Hood Foundation. The program is currently in its fifth iteration and will serve 31 foreign-born New Yorkers by the end of the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2017. Additionally, the Tech Talent Pipeline is planning to launch a new cycle of the training which is slated to start as early as the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2017.

In the food service and accommodations sector StageNYC, launched out of the NYC Food & Beverage Hospitality Council, provides young adults looking to start their careers in the culinary arts with the skills, industry exposure, and on-the-job experience necessary to become line cooks in the restaurant industry. The 12-week program includes one week of full-time technical, classroom-based training in food preparation and safety, followed by 11 weeks of full-time, paid on-the-job training and additional skill building in a restaurant setting. The first cohort of 25 participants will start their training in early May, and a second cohort of 25 participants will start their training in June. SBS is currently recruiting for its first class in May.

Action Item Approval

Ms. Arroyo called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 23, 2016 and September 22, 2016 quarterly meetings. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Update on the WDB's Summer Youth Internship Campaign

Representing the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), Andre White, Associate Commissioner of Workforce Development, and Dalsie Andrade, Director of Employment Engagement and Partnerships, provided an update on summer youth internships.

They offered a brief overview of Ladders for Leaders and the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), differences between the two, and efforts DYCD has taken to improve the programs.

Mr. White shared that the City convened a Task Force composed of a number of leaders from City government, the City Council, community-based organizations, foundations, and researchers to make recommendations for how to improve SYEP. Overall the Task Force focused on defining the purpose of the program, improving program quality, and ensuring the program is connected to additional education and employment activities. The recommendations were to be featured in a report to be released in the coming weeks. The report can be found at: <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/reports/2017/Youth-Employment-Taskforce-Report.pdf>.

In addition, Mr. White noted that DYCD would release a concept paper for the revamped Summer Youth Employment Program later this spring and a request for proposals (RFP) for SYEP providers later this fall.

Ms. Andrade briefly clarified the distinctions between DYCD's summer internship programs, Ladders for Leaders and SYEP. SYEP is primarily geared towards providing young people ages 14 to 24 an opportunity to explore potential career paths. The program connects enthusiastic high school and college students with diverse skill sets to local businesses for six weeks at no cost to the employer. Each young person receives basic work readiness training and support services from local community-based organizations.

The Ladders for Leaders program is a highly selective program connecting young people ages 16 to 22 with at least a 3.0 GPA and prior work or volunteer experience to employers. Each intern is selected via a rigorous application, receives 30 hours of advanced pre-employment training, and is paid by the sponsoring employer. Interns work at least 6 weeks and can work longer depending on the employer's needs.

Reynold Graham, Workforce Development Board Policy Associate, shared the Board's progress for its campaign to support both Ladders for Leaders and SYEP. Mr. Graham shared that the Board set a group goal to secure 300 internship slots in total this summer and a minimum of eight private sector slots per Board member. These goals reflect increases over last year's goals of five slots per member and 250 in total. The Board also set a target to secure 200 internship slots by the end of March. As of April 4th, 2017, seven Board members had pledged a total of 137 internship slots. Board members can support the program in one of three ways: hire interns in their own organization, convince a business in their network to hire an intern, or contribute financial support. Mr. Graham encouraged Board members to fulfill their goals if they had not already done so.

Ms. Arroyo then shared her experience securing internship slots and financial support through her company, National Grid. For this summer, National Grid was able to support three Ladders for Leaders interns and contribute \$60,000 to support additional Ladders internship slots. Ms. Arroyo then encouraged members to tap their networks to help spread the word about the City's summer youth internship programs. Finally, Ms. Arroyo led the members through a reflection during which they brainstormed ideas for how they could engage their networks.

Potential WIOA Funding Decrease

Chris Neale, WDB Director, provided brief background on the potential for a WIOA funding decrease. Mr. Neale shared that the Trump administration released its “skinny budget” for the federal government on March 16th. Overall the President proposed \$54 billion in cuts to the federal government, including a 21% decrease to the U.S. Department of Labor’s budget – which includes WIOA funding. This budget proposal is just the first step in the process of determining the federal budget, however, and the final budget will be heavily influenced by Congress.

There are two variables that will determine the City’s level of WIOA funding in FY2018: the total funding appropriated by Congress and the federal and state WIOA funding formulas. The federal formula dictates that New York State will receive a smaller national *share* of total WIOA funding in FY2018 than it did in FY2017. Similarly, the state formula, which determines what share of the total state pool of funding each local area receives, dictates that New York City will receive a smaller *share* of total New York State funding in FY2018 than in FY2017. In both cases, the decreases are due to the fact that New York State and New York City are performing relatively better than other states and local areas, respectively, on variables which impact the formulas, such as the number of people unemployed.

As a result, even if WIOA funding remained the same at the federal level. New York City would still receive a funding decrease of \$7.7 million, about a 12% reduction. If the 21% cut proposed for the United States Department of Labor in the President’s “skinny budget” were implemented by Congress, New York City would see a loss of nearly \$20 million.

Melinda Mack, Executive Director of NYATEP then shared an update on the budget climate in Washington D.C., and actions the Board can take. The National Governor’s Association, a bipartisan organization of the nation’s governors, is estimating that WIOA would be cut 40% or \$1.5 billion across the country. However, workforce advocates hope that the fact WIOA was passed in a bipartisan fashion will help to minimize any potential reductions to WIOA funding.

In response to the proposed USDOL cuts, NYATEP, along with a number of other workforce associations from states such as Michigan and California, delivered to Congress more than 500 letters from local businesses sharing how important WIOA programs have been to their success. Ms. Mack recommended the NYCWDB consider additional ways to share their experiences with WIOA programming including hosting a Congressional representative on a tour of a Workforce1 Center or meeting with Congressional representatives.

Ms. Mack shared that it is expected that a continuing resolution will be agreed on in the next few weeks which would continue to fund all federal programs at a flat level from April 28th to September. Meanwhile, the FY2018 appropriations process is expected to take place between May and July.

WDB Meeting Wrap Up and Thanks

Ms. Arroyo thanked the members and guests for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.