

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD QUARTERLY MEETING

110 William Street, 4th Floor Conference Room
New York, New York 10038
Wednesday, October 3, 2018
8:30 – 10:30 AM

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Maureen Anderson	Lenore Friedlaender	Shabazz Diallo (D)
Laurice Arroyo	Laura Imperiale	Claudia Flores (D)
Amy Bennett	Laura James	Lucinda Glover (D)
Les Bluestone	Joe McDermott	Angie Kamath (D)
Commissioner Bill Chong	Patricia Ornst	Daphne Montanez (D)
Mark Elliott	Jocelynn Rainey	

(D) = Designee

Guests Present:

Paula Bailey	Justin Gale	Maria Serrano
Liza Bower	Jesse Laymon	Gladys Valerde
Tim Currier	Shareen Margolis	Therese Workman
Daniel Edelman	Priya Mayadas-Sable	Jessica Weis
David Fischer	Liz McNierney	

Staff Present:

Christine Curella	Stacie Evans	Chris Neale
Rose DeStefano	Laura Gibson	Amy Peterson

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 overview of the Board's "gig" worker training pilot.

WDB Welcomes Amy Peterson as Director of the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development

Ms. Arroyo welcomed Amy Peterson as the new Director of the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development. Ms. Peterson will lead the Office, building on the past four years to fully align the City's work in advancing opportunities for New Yorkers. Some of her priorities include bringing together the many workforce initiatives across City agencies, establishing new initiatives that will provide good jobs for New Yorkers, and setting ambitious goals focused on training and employment. Ms. Peterson will also engage with communities directly to build initiatives across neighborhoods linking community based-organizations.

Prior to being appointed as Director of the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, Amy Peterson served as Director of the Office of Housing Recovery, having been appointed in 2014. From 2007 to 2014, Peterson was President of Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW), which prepares, trains and places women in careers in the skilled construction, utility and maintenance trades, helping women achieve economic independence and a secure future. Earlier in her career, Peterson managed workforce development programs at the New York City Human Resources Administration where she oversaw the implementation of the Workforce Investment Act, a federal program preceding WIOA designed to help jobseekers access employment, education and workforce training. She also oversaw the launch of new City contracts which assessed training and employment opportunities for New Yorkers.

Update on the FY19 WIOA Budget

Chris Neale, WDB Director, gave a brief update of the City's WIOA allocation. New York City's total WIOA allocation fell by more than \$3 million from last year's figure of \$57.5m to \$54m for the current fiscal year. The declines were not due to federal cuts, but instead were the result of the funding formulas at both the state and local levels. The U.S. Department of Labor uses a formula to determine the amount of WIOA funding in each of the three categories – Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth – for each state. The formula includes factors related to the general economic health of each state. New York State uses a similar formula for allocating funding across the state's 33 local areas.

Department of Youth and Community Development Update

Commissioner Bill Chong and Assistant Commissioner Daphne Montanez of the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) provided the Board with an update on its youth programs. The 2018 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) continued years of ongoing growth, serving more than 74,000 young people with job opportunities.

DYCD also recently announced the rebranding of its Workforce Development unit as Workforce Connect. Within Workforce Connect, three initiatives have also been rebranded: the In-School Youth (ISY) program is now Train & Earn, the Out-of-School Youth (OSY) program is now Learn & Earn, and the Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP) is now Intern & Earn.

Department of Small Business Services Update

Department of Small Business Services (SBS) Deputy Commissioner Lucinda Glover provided the Board with an update on its WIOA Adult programs. For Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), SBS helped connect New Yorkers to 25,225 jobs. For people connected directly to employment through Workforce1, the proportion of full-time hires was 90% and the average wage was \$14.46 per hour for this period. That compares to 82% and \$13.29, respectively, for the same period the previous year.

In Fiscal Year 2018, more than 1,400 individuals completed cohort training. SBS offered more than 40 different training programs, including 12 bridge or “pre-training” programs with targeted supports for young adults and foreign-born New Yorkers. The programs partner with more than 30 different organizations, including CUNY colleges, sister agencies, and community-based organizations to increase capacity and collaboration across the City.

Independent Work Survey of Workforce1 Customers

Mr. Neale and Mark Elliot, Board Vice Chair, provided the Board with an update on the independent work survey of Workforce1 customers. The Board has been involved in conducting a survey of Workforce1 customers about the extent to which they have been involved in independent, or “gig,” work. For a two-week period from September 17 to 25, the five “hub” Workforce1 Career Centers asked all new customers to complete a survey about their involvement in independent work during the previous 12 months.

Board Vice Chair Mark Elliott had raised the prospect of such a survey at a previous Board meeting, partly in response to the Board's interest in the topic and due to the fact that, although estimates of participation in the "gig" economy are available on a national basis, little to no data is available for New York City, let alone for customers of the public workforce system. The purpose of the survey was to assess both the degree of Workforce1 customer participation in the "gig" economy and their level of interest in increasing their participation.

Mr. Elliott generously contributed staff time from his organization, Economic Mobility Corporation, a nonprofit organization that conducts research on promising strategies and evaluates programs that have the potential to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. Mr. Elliott and his colleague, Anne Roder, helped to design the survey, solicited two rounds of feedback from the Workforce1 center managers, and monitored the progress in real time, and will analyze the results.

Customers were asked to complete a short survey via Survey Monkey, an online survey tool, but also had the option of a paper version. The survey was anonymous and voluntary. SBS staff were heavily involved in preparing for the survey, collecting daily results, and communicating with the centers.

Mr. Elliott and his team hope to complete an analysis of the results, including any demographic trends (age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education level), in October. The results will be shared with the Board.

WDB Gig Worker Training Pilot with Samaschool

Jennifer Curry, Samaschool Policy Advisor, provided the Board with an overview of the gig worker training pilot. With generous funding from Board Member Joe McDermott and his organization, the Consortium for Worker Education, Samaschool was contracted to modify its curriculum to focus on domestic workers and to launch a training pilot. The primary objective of the pilot is to test whether a short-term training on the use of online platforms and web sites and on other skills independent workers need can help low-income individuals increase their incomes.

The training, titled "Using the Internet to Increase Your Income," will target domestic workers who perform independent work and currently earn less than \$600 per week. For the purposes of this training, the Board staff defined domestic workers as those who perform work in people's homes, including cleaners, childcare providers, and home health providers. Independent work was defined as work performed outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship, and instead on a contract basis.

In the New York City market, Samaschool has previously provided training to jobseekers, primarily to help them gain work experience and bolster their resumes, and to entrepreneurs seeking to expand existing businesses by leveraging online platforms.

However, they have not previously focused on the target segment of this pilot: domestic workers who are essentially entrepreneurs, but may not view themselves as such, who might benefit from launching or expanding their ability to find work via the internet.

The first training cohort will run two evenings in late October and will take place at the Consortium for Worker Education's facility in Lower Manhattan. Samaschool commenced recruitment for the first training cohort in mid-September.

Training graduates will have ongoing access to support from Samaschool staff. Samaschool's evaluation team will connect with the training graduates after 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months to determine if they have increased their earnings. The Board staff will provide regular updates to the Board on the progress of the training pilot.

Closing of Meeting

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