



Amina Bey
Executive Director

Ras J. Baraka
Mayor

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Newark Workforce Investment Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Essex County College – Training Inc. – 4th floor

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Agenda

1. Director's Welcome

Amina Bey, Executive Director – Newark Workforce Investment Board

2. Chairpersons Remarks

Penny Joseph, Vice President, Panasonic Corporation

Vesta Godwin-Clark, Director, St. James Social Services

3. Finance Report

Susan Croce & Jill Burden - CPAs, Aurora Nonprofit Solutions

4. NWIB Updates

Amina Bey – NWIB Fundraiser; September 1, 2015

DaVetta Lane – GED/Vocational Training Pilot Program

Adriana Crawford – Art of Code web design program

Al-Qadr Camillo – Investors Bank Positive Recruitment, Career Fair

Adam Albanese – Joint WIB Retreat Report

Tolu Lanrewaju – Economic Development Training Fund - ADEPT

5. Committee Reports

Education and Literacy

Business and Economic Development

Disability Issues

Youth Investment Council

Welfare-to-Work

7. Important Dates

Newark/Essex Joint Board Meeting: 9:30 am – 12noon

Friday, December 10, 2015 - Robert Treat Hotel

8. Adjourn Meeting



Full Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2015
Essex County College- Training Inc. - 4th floor
Newark, NJ 07102
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Attendees: Adam Albanese (NWIB), Dhiren Amin (Indian Business Association), Amina Bey (NWIB), Jill Burden (Aurora), Mitch Cahn (Unionwear), Al-Qadr Camillo (NWIB), Mitra Choudhury (ECC), Vesta Godwin Clark (St. James Social Svcs.), Adriana Crawford (NWIB), Jerrah Crowder (LISC) Elizabeth Davis (DVR), Danny-Denise Gonzalez (NHA Resident Svcs.), Gale Gibson (ECC), Ralph T. Grant (Pillar College), Chip Hallock (NRBP), Dexter Hendricks (Turner Construction), Penny Joseph (Panasonic Corporation), Davetta Lane (NWIB), Tolu Lanrewaju (NWIB), Lin Poo (Newark-One Stop), DawnMarie Montgomery-Otis (TD Bank), Morris Murray (Workforce NJ), Samuel Okparaeke (ECOSCC), William Parrish (Noble Strategies), Safanya Searcy (Service Employees Int'l Union) Ron Wise (Jericho), Yuemeng Zhang (NWIB)

Introductions- All

All NWIB members, meeting attendees and staff introduced themselves. Board members articulated what businesses and/or organizations they represented.

Welcome & Opening Remarks- Amina Bey

Amina Bey, Executive Director of the Newark Workforce Investment Board (NWIB), welcomed all board members, meeting attendees and staff to the meeting. The meeting was held at Essex County College, Training Inc. in Newark, NJ.

Ms. Bey thanked everyone who attended and/or supported the NWIB Fundraiser Reception which was an astounding success. There was representation from both the public and private sectors and Rutgers RU Ready to Work students were showcased. Ms. Bey spoke of how the event was a great network and find out more about what the NWIB does. She also expressed that it is not too late to make financial contributions to the agency.

Chairperson's Remarks- Penny Joseph and Vesta Godwin Clark

Penny Joseph, Chairperson of the NWIB, urged board members to support fundraisers in the future because they help to augment the budget by providing unrestricted funds. She expressed her hope for the committees to continue to get stronger and thanked the WIB team.

Chairperson Godwin Clark spoke of how wonderful it was to see the business community come together. She encouraged everyone on the board to learn more about the WIB and stressed the

importance of the committee work that takes place in the joint committee meetings. She also commended the staff for all their hard work and dedication.

Motion, to Approve Former Meeting Minutes

Susan Croce made a request for a revision on page 3; Material statements should be changed to material misstatements. A motion presented to move, second and approve the minutes.

Financial Report

Susan Croce spoke of the meeting with Magone & Company in which several items were discussed. The audit and Form 990 is available on pdf and anyone who is interested in having a copy may give their name to Kelli Bell-Taylor, Program Support Specialist for the NWIB and it will be sent electronically. The second item discussed was the proposed budget for the fiscal year after the current fiscal year. The budget was supplied in the packet and it compared the proposed budget for the current year with the actual expenses for the fiscal year ending 6/30/15. The numbers for 6/30/2015 are pre-audit preliminary numbers. The budget showed that \$180,000 in unrestricted funds must be raised from other funding sources to close the differences between the revenue and expenses. The strategy is to continue to solicit unrestricted revenue sources. A \$200,000 contribution was made from L&M Development for the current year in which \$150,000 will be used for student stipends. There was a shift in categories; the salaries and wages are declining because positions within the WIF Grant will be terminated. The strategy at the end of the quarter is to reassess where we are in reference to additional funding. Ms. Croce stated that if funding isn't coming in, we strive to have a balanced budget by the end of 6/30/2016.

Ms. Bey thanked Aurora Nonprofit Solutions for all their forensic accounting and support. She added that they were the top contributors for the NWIB Fundraiser.

Motion, Approval of the Budget

Motion moved by Mitch Cahn, seconded and casted.

Essex County College (ECC) - President Gale Gibson

President Gibson brought greetings. She expressed that ECC had recently graduated its largest class to date. Forty-six percent of the class was Newark residents. She admitted that the challenge continues to be that students are not college ready. She shared some of Essex County College's great news. They are working closer with their K-12 partners to better prepare students for college; their graduation rate has doubled; their Business Program was highlighted; they were awarded a one million dollar Adult Re-Entry Grant; they recently received a 26 million dollar capital grant which will be used to focus on developmental education; The college is partnering with many agencies to be able to offer more opportunities for Newark residents. She asked everyone to share the good news.

Ms. Bey thanked President Gibson and her team for their support and partnership. She elaborated on the two-day Work Readiness credential that was set up. It was designed to provide soft skills training and work place etiquette for Newark residents.

Mrs. Joseph stressed how important it is from a corporate perspective to ensure that our youth are prepared for the workforce.

NWIB Updates

NWIB Fundraiser- Ms. Bey has advised that with commitments of contributions, an estimated amount of \$30,000 has been raised. She expressed her appreciation for the backing, sacrifice and commitment of all of those who attended and contributed to the event. She further communicated that because state and federal funds have shrunk by a million dollars, we need more support from board members to aid in assisting Newarkers with training and job opportunities. Ms. Bey mentioned that 10 out of 47 board members supported the fundraiser. She thanked the WIB Team for their dedication each day and acknowledged their hard work in making the fundraiser a successful event.

GED/Vocational Training Pilot Program- Davetta Lane

Ms. Lane advised that under the direction of Deputy Mayor Rahaman Muhammad, L&M Development made a generous contribution to the City of Newark for \$200,000 in which 15 Newark residents would receive a stipend for GED/ Vocational Training. Recruitment was done from the Office of the Mayor and the Youth Office. Of the funds received, \$50,000 was dedicated to the NWIB to aid with the deficit.

Art of Code Web Designer Program- Adrianna Crawford

Ms. Crawford communicated that this 14-16 week program is a joint initiative between the NWIB and NJIT. This program was designed to be an opportunity for Newark residents to obtain training in web design and development. An information session will be held and followed by a 2 week pre-work process for certified participants. There will be a follow-up orientation and Taber test for those who are not certified so that everyone can start at the same time. There is not yet a firm start date. The program runs two days per week for 144 hours total. This allows students to attend training without interfering with a previous work or school schedule. The program prepares students to be Jr. Web Designers which pays anywhere from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year. There are currently eighteen to twenty slots open, currently.

Investors Bank Positive Recruitment- Al-Qadr Camillo

Mr. Camillo advised the board of employment orientation for Investor's Bank which will be held on September 15, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; another orientation will be held on September 16, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. He communicated that the company is heavily expanding in the Newark area and will be hiring for customer service associates, customer service associate supervisors and branch manager positions. Candidates should have finance and/or banking backgrounds. All positions are full-time with benefits. Mr. Camillo also mentioned that under the recommendation of Deputy Mayor Rahaman Muhammad, the NWIB is looking into hosting a Professional Career Fair in November 2015. Lastly, he spoke of Newark Public Schools Food Service Worker's Orientation at the end of the week at 2 Cedar Street at 9 a.m.

Joint WIB Retreat Report- Adam Albanese

Mr. Albanese discussed the Joint WIB Retreat Report from Public Consulting Group which was sent electronically. He thanked everyone for their participation at the retreat and discussed that the conversations and framework built in the committees is ongoing. The report breaks down the SWOT Analysis, key opportunities and goals set by each committee. He stated that at the beginning of the retreat, the SETC of the State Workforce Board spoke about the changes in WIA and mentioned its goal to come up with unified state plan. Mr. Albanese boasted about the Joint Newark and Essex County

WIB being ahead of the curve. He stated that by the summer of 2016, committees will abandon their individual goals to form one unified plan.

Economic Development Training Fund- Tolu Lanrewaju

Ms. Lanrewaju mentioned that at the retreat, each committee echoed that we should work to do a better job of making sure that we allow employers to express what their needs are. She relayed that the NWIB had come up with the Economic Development Training Fund (ADEPT) which is aligned with the state and federal government. She stressed that we must listen to the industry and form partnerships. The two trades that will spearhead the ADEPT campaign are manufacturing and construction trades. With millions of dollars in the pipeline for Newark and over three hundred manufacturers, she stated that we were on the right track. The proposal was submitted to the Department of Labor and the team hopes to set a model for the state.

Committee Reports

Business & Economic Development- Mitch Cahn

Mr. Cahn advised that the committee has come up with a way to market Newark's workforce system through placement services, training services, transportation services, employer incentives and soft skills. This committee is excited about a Work Readiness Certification, encouraging employers to trust the system. The committee has also been working on a content library which should be ready by the end of the year.

Disability Issues- Davetta Lane

Ms. Lane mentioned that at the last meeting, the committee was working on plans to host an event in March 2016 to highlight and recognize employers who hire people with disabilities. The committee is also putting together a Disabilities Awareness Training to include the Newark and Essex County One Stop. This training will provide information on resources that are available for disabled individuals.

Welfare to Work- Danny Denise Gonzalez

Ms. Gonzalez informed the group about the meeting that took place at the One Stop at 50 S. Clinton Street where Sam Okparaeké made his staff available to answer questions and provide an understanding of how the agency works. She mentioned some of the frustrations that the staff expressed to include the antiquated computer systems and how the training and benefit components don't communicate. She expressed her gratitude of being able to take a tour of the facility and relayed the committee's excitement about Mr. Okparaeké's plan to install flat screen televisions in the waiting areas. She conveyed the committee's idea of having information sessions recorded and looped to keep clients in the know. Ms. Gonzalez discussed that there was a lack of dialogue between the Welfare Case Managers and the Welfare to Work systems that negatively impact its clients. She also mentioned that the committee would be coming together to discuss ways in which they can help to improve the systems that are in place and was ecstatic about moving ahead.

Mrs. Joseph asked Chip Hallock to put together a Power Point presentation of information and/ or resources that could be beneficial to clients as they wait for services.

Important Dates

Joint Newark and Essex County Board Meeting will take place on Friday, December 10, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Adjourn Meeting

Mrs. Joseph concluded that the meeting was very informative and thanked everyone for their participation. Motion to adjourn is presented, seconded. Meeting is adjourned.