



Full Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 23, 2014
The Newark Club
1085 Raymond Boulevard
Newark, NJ 07102
2:00-4:00PM

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Attendees: Amina Bey (NWIB), Davetta Lane (NWIB), Christine Carter (NWIB), Ewelina Adamiak (NWIB), Tamikah Gilmore (NWIB), Tyronda Johnson-Walden (NWIB), Tolu Lanrewaju (NWIB), Adam Albanese (NWIB), Adriana Crawford (NWIB), Yuemeng Zhang (NWIB), Norma Gonzalez (NewarkWORKS), Fred Murphy (Office of Reentry- NewarkWORKS), Dashay Carter (NewarkWORKS), Harry Nelson (NewarkWORKS), Rigoberto Salas (NYOSCC), Sonja Williams (NYOSCC), Amiri Baraka Jr. (City of Newark), Rahaman Muhammad (City of Newark), Alicia Munoz (City of Newark), Dhiren Amin (Indian Business Association), Marcia Brown (Rutgers- Newark), Mitch Cahn (Unionwear), Mitra Choudhury (ECC), Nicole Fields (NPS), Vesta Godwin Clark (St. James Social Svcs.), Joseph Epps, Jr., Danny-Denise Gonzalez (NHA Resident Svcs.), Chip Hallock (NRBP), Kyle Hammonds (Beloved R Kutz), Joyce Wilson Harley (Rutgers Univ.), Dexter Hendricks (Turner Construction), George Hunter (G Style), Robert Hunter (Oladejon Clothing), Ronald Hunter (Crowd Entertainment Network), Barbara George Johnson (Thomas Edison State College), Penny Joseph (Panasonic Corporation), John Kenny Kwak (JFI Newark), Esther Lee (REMax, LLC.), Zachary Lipner (NBIMC), DawnMarie Montgomery-Otis (TD Bank), Morris Murray (Workforce NJ), Solo Okonkwo (DVRS), Samuel Okparaek (ECOSCC), Joy Adesumola Olajbegi (Academy of Training), Kimberly Ostrowski (Prudential Financial Inc.), William Parrish (Noble Strategies), Norma Cordeiro (DVRS), Steve Safier (Panasonic Corporation), Safanya Searcy (Service Employees Int'l Union), Farag Seiam, Mahesh Shah (Indian Business Association), Bahvna Tailor (Hohokus RETS), Donald Viapree (Cablevision), Shanequa D. Wilson (United Airlines), Ronald Wise, Leighton Harper (NJLWD), Apryl Caldwell (NJLWD), Catherine Starghill (NJLWD), Carrel Coreus (DVRS), Kirk Lew (SETC), Howard Weiss (ECOSCC), Lincoln Farquharson (Rutgers- Newark), Joanne Kaiser (NOD), Robert Thomas (City of Newark), Stephanie Harris-Kuiper (District 1199 J Training & Development Fund), Nela Miller (DVRS), Tiffany Smith (NJLWD), Joyce Harley, Esq. (ECC)

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 at 2:18PM. The meeting was held at *The Newark Club* located at 1085 Raymond Boulevard in Newark, NJ.

Ms. Bey thanked NWIB members, whose terms had recently expired and everyone who had helped the NWIB thrive in the past few years. She expressed that moving forward the NWIB would

continue to progress and provide Newark's residents with employment and training opportunities. Ms. Bey also emphasized the importance of helping the city's local businesses to thrive.

Introductions- All

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

APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATIONS

Ms. Bey introduced Penny Joseph (Panasonic Corporation) to Board members and meeting attendees. She announced that Ms. Joseph had been appointed as the NWIB Chairperson by the Honorable Mayor Ras J. Baraka. Members would have to confirm her appointment through a vote. The City of Newark's Chief of Staff, Amiri Baraka, Jr., acknowledged Ms. Joseph as the Mayor's appointment. Ms. Joseph thanked the Mayor for the appointment of NWIB Board Chair and the opportunity to serve Newark.

Motion, Appointment of Penny Joseph as Chairperson

Sam Okparaeké motioned to appoint Penny Joseph as NWIB Chairperson. Joyce Harley Esq. seconded the motion. The motion carried with no abstentions or objections.

Motion, Appointment of Vesta Goodwin Clark as Vice-Chair

Samuel Okparaeké motioned to appoint Vesta Godwin Clark as NWIB Vice-Chair. Penny Joseph seconded the motion. The motion carried with no abstentions or objections.

State Employment & Training Commission- Kirk Lew

SETC Policy Analyst, Kirk Lew, provided Board members with an overview of the State Employment & Training Commission (SETC). He reported that the SETC was viewed as the WIB for the state. The commission provided technical assistance and support to all WIBs throughout NJ. Mr. Lew's PowerPoint presentation noted that the association was a valued partner of business, labor, economic and educational partners and developed a state unified plan every five years. The three components of the SETC comprised of planning, policy and performance and its priorities included the state's high unemployment rate, system integration between partners and developing the shortest path between job seekers and employers. In addition he stated that the four core values of the association's unified plan comprised of the following:

- Driving investments based on industry needs
- Meeting jobseekers where they are
- Equipping the workforce for employment
- Increasing system accountability

Mr. Lew also expressed his excitement for the increased synergy between the NWIB and Essex County with Amina Bey as the newly appointed Executive Director.

NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development- Catherine Starghill

Amina Bey welcomed Director of Field Operations at the NJ Department of Labor & WF Development (NJDOLWD), Catherine Starghill, to the meeting and thanked her for all her technical assistance in recent months. Ms. Starghill expressed her happiness to represent NJDOLWD at the meeting. She voiced that Newark and Essex County were very important to the state for many reasons and the enhanced partnership between the two was substantially welcomed in Trenton. Ms. Starghill reported that she had been working with Sam Okparaeke and Ms. Bey at the Essex County One-Stop Center in East Orange for some time and she had been happy to hear the announcement that Ms. Bey had been appointed as the NWIB's Executive Director. She added that she looked forward to building Trenton's partnership with the NWIB and City of Newark in the months and years to come.

Remarks- Amiri Baraka, Jr.

Chief of Staff, Amiri Baraka, Jr., thanked all NWIB members and meeting attendees for being involved in the city's transformation. He asked that everyone work together to move the city forward and bring success to its residents and businesses.

Motion, Ratification of Amina Bey's Appointment as NWIB Executive Director

Joyce Harley, Esq. motioned to ratify the appointment of Amina Bey as NWIB Executive Director. Penny Joseph seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objections or abstentions.

Monitoring, Performance & Evaluation Unit, NJDOLWD- Leighton Harper

Leighton Harper from the Monitoring, Performance and Evaluation Unit at NJDOLWD provided Board Members with a brief overview of his department which monitored and evaluated the performance of the NWIB and Newark One-Stop Career Center. He also stated that over the past ten years, the City of Newark had evolved into the state's only major city. Mr. Harper further expressed his excitement over Panasonic Corporation's relocation to Newark as well as its NWIB membership.

Essex County Workforce Investment Board- Samuel Okparaeke

Essex County WIB Director and NWIB Member, Sam Okparaeke emphasized the importance of the partnership between the NWIB/NOSCC and the ECOSCC. He reported that both One-Stops in Newark and East Orange served the same clients and he had been waiting for an improvement in the partnership between both entities. The clients of both One-Stops were in need of effective training programs and employment opportunities. Both the NOSCC and the ECOSCC would be able to substantially improve its services to clients due to the enhanced partnership and support from Trenton. He also asked NWIB members to select a committee to work on before they left the meeting as the majority of WIB work was completed within committees. The six joint committees between the NWIB and Essex County WIB included the Youth Investment Council (YIC), Business & Economic Development, Literacy and Disabilities committees. Furthermore he congratulated Ms. Bey on her Executive Director appointment.

Ms. Bey thanked Mr. Okparaeke for his remarks and emphasized that the NWIB was a working entity. She voiced that Board Members were expected to work on a committee and be active participants.

NEWARK UPDATES

WIB Planner- Davetta Lane

WIB Planner, Davetta Lane, introduced herself to Board Members. She reported that descriptions of all the NWIB committees had been included in their meeting packets and asked them to select a committee before they left for the day. She introduced Joanne Kaiser, NJ Project Director at the National Organization on Disability, who provided a summary on the NWIB's collaboration with the Add Us In Consortium.

Ms. Kaiser reported that Add Us In was an initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). The initiative was designed to identify and develop strategies to increase employment opportunities within the small business community, particularly those operated by minorities, for individuals with disabilities. She reported that the consortium was in the process of partnering with employers to provide work experience and job placements for youth and young adults with disabilities and partnering with the NWIB to increase the success rates for Newark and Essex County youth and young adults.

NWIB Contracts- Christine Carter

Christine Carter, NWIB Grants Manager, provided an overview of the organization's contracts. She articulated the NWIB's mission statement and reported that since Ms. Bey's appointment the NWIB had terminated over \$1 million in contracts. Ms. Carter expressed that moving forward the NWIB would operate transparently and ensure that there were no duplication of services.

Programs- Ewelina Adamiak

Program Support Specialist, Ewelina Adamiak, provided members with a report on the NWIB's 2014 Newark College Institute (NCI). She expressed that the Newark College Internship Program comprised of 88 participants while the Newark College Freshman Institute involved 160 participants. Ms. Adamiak reported that the NWIB would request an increase in funding for the 2015 NCI so the program could accommodate more participants. She asked members to review her report and email her with any questions or recommendations for next year's program.

Managing for Success, Workforce Innovation Fund- Tolu Lanrewaju & Adam Albanese

Workforce Innovation Fund Manager, Tolu Lanrewaju, and Senior Strategist, Adam Albanese, provided the NWIB with an overview and update on the *Managing for Success* Grant. Ms. Lanrewaju thanked WIF Steering Committee members who were present at the meeting. She reported that the WIF Team had two principal focuses; data-driven decision making and policy setting and system alignment. The overall goal of the WIF grant was to create a more effective system for the NOSCC through an integrated database. The project was currently on its third phase which focused on developing a Workstat and data solution. She expressed the team's gratitude for the opportunity to do such important and meaningful work and asked Board members to call or email here with any questions.

Newark One-Stop Career Center/NewarkWORKS- Norma Gonzalez

Norma Gonzalez, Acting Deputy Director of the NOSCC/NewarkWORKS updated the NWIB on NewarkWORKS' activities and placements. She stated that since 7/1/2014 the NOSCC had placed over 200 residents in unsubsidized employment and another 200 residents in Individual Training Agreements (ITAs). Ms. Gonzalez articulated that the agency was working with several major companies which were opening in Newark including *Indigo Hotel* which would be open in 10/2014 and hire approximately 50-60 city residents. She asked that NWIB members refer any job openings they had to her or Ms. Bey.

Newark Youth One-Stop Career Center- Rigoberto Salas

Director of Youth Services at the Newark Youth One-Stop Career Center (NYOSCC), Rigoberto Salas, provided an update on the agency. He voiced that 1, 500 Newark youth participated and worked through the agency's 2014 City-Summer Work Program. Mr. Salas reported that the NYOSCC had been working on partnering with more local businesses such as retail stores for employment opportunities for its youth participants. The agency was also partnering with Ironbound Community Center and Channel 78 to provide youth participants with academic enrichment on film and television production.

Office of Reentry- Fred Murphy

Manager for the Office of Reentry, Fred Murphy, introduced himself to Board Members and asked that the employers of the NWIB partner with the Office of Reentry to provide ex-offenders sustainable employment.

Closing Remarks- Rahaman Muhammad

Newark Deputy Mayor of Workforce Development, Rahaman Muhammad, thanked NWIB members for volunteering their time to working on the Board. He voiced that moving forward all the city's workforce departments would work together and in conjunction. He expressed that the City of Newark was in need of sustainable employment opportunities for its residents and the NWIB would have to seek other sources of funding as WIA funds were limited. Deputy Mayor Muhammad further thanked the state for its financial support as ITAs and other training opportunities led to sustainable jobs for city residents.

Meeting Adjournment

Ms. Bey thanked the Honorable Mayor Ras J. Baraka for her NWIB Executive Director Appointment and thanked NWIB members for the ratification of the appointment. She adjourned the meeting at 3:29PM.