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Cavalier Johnson, Mayor, City of Milwaukee
Chief Elected Official

Carla Cross, **Chair**

EMPLOY MILWAUKEE BOARD OF

DIRECTORS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. 2342 North 27th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Tracy Lubber, Mark Kessenich (Chair), Randy Crump, Juie Cayo, Joni Theobald, Gevonchai Hudnall-Vogel, Ugo Nwagbaraocha, Joni Theobald,

Guests: Beth Norris, Alexander Fischer, Tim Schindler-UMOS, Everet Fernandez-Cristo Rey, Smanatha Young-Cristo Rey, Greg Fritsch, Maritza Caban-UMOS

Employ Milwaukee Staff Present: Wylbur Holloway, Romell Greer, Carrie Hersch, Kodi Harding, Jeff McAlister, Suzanne Reinstein, Marcia Blackman, Cindy Anderson,

Chair Mark Kessenich called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Completed welcome and introductions.

II. Committee Business

November 20, 2024; meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Randy Crump and seconded by Tracy Lubber.

III. Contracts and Compliance

A. Policy approvals for None

B. Contracts

UMOS-\$125,000 to serve 25 Out of School Youth through 6/30/2025

Cristo Rey High School – 125,000 to serve at least 25 In-School Youth through 6/30/2026

The Program Committee will send it to the Executive Committee for final approval if approved.

The motion for approval by Randy Crump 1st and Tracy Lubber 2nd was approved unanimously.

1. Subrecipients

a. Milwaukee Christian Center, with a construction contract that will run from February 1, 2025, to May 31, 2028, will have 12 slots per cohort for \$195,000

b. UNCOM with a CNA contract that will have 22 slots per cohort for \$396,795

Motion for approval, Tracy Lubber, 2nd Randy Crump motion approved unanimously.

IV. New Grants and Funding

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US Department of Labor Youthbuild - \$1,500,000 this is a construction grant that will 68 participants for 40 months.

US Department of Labor Growth Opportunities grant - \$2,000,000. This reentry grant for youth aged 15-18 will serve 160 participants over 42 months.

V. Labor Market Information

Julie Cayo provided an update on the labor market. Milwaukee County's unemployment rate is low at 3.2%, and we do continue to see some layoffs, the board has received a WARN notice from the following: Equiniti Trust Company, Cygnus Home Services, Solina USA, Democratic Party of Wisconsin, Molson Coors, and Advance Stores was a large group that channel 12 did reach us to talk about it.

VI. Regional One-Stop Operator Report

Beth Norris shared the American Job Center Community Network Customer Satisfaction report for the Super Region Workforce Development Areas 1, 2, and 3. Beth shared that their focus is to serve as the liaison to WDBs on behalf of service delivery systems. Engage partners to integrate services and foster innovation. Facilitates learning opportunities. Ensures compliance with American Job Center branding and Equal Opportunity and assists with MOUs. They just closed out the MOU session with 23 required partner organizations participating in the MOU. The main purpose is to define how organizations that are part of the American Job Center network work together to leverage resources and ensure individuals access all the services they need. Beth shared some data that they have through the receptionist system they have. The consensus decision is they still will have 3 centers, no staff changes, the budget will remain the same, customer counts from the kiosk will be used to project allocation of value among programs, consider the in-kind method of contribution centers, and lastly the referral method narrative updated to reflect current approaches. The Mou commitment is that they will attend partner meetings, participate in business service huddles, participate in learning opportunities related to referral and connectivity of programs, and complete customer satisfaction measurement and feedback.

VII. Program Reports

- Romell Greer Reported that Camp Rise is in the planning process for 2025
 - a. There are 147 kids eligible to return to camp, 6 boys could be back for the 4th year'
 - b. 99 kids have completed and are eligible for Earn & Learn
 - c. Application release is TBD
 - d. Funding is still in the process, but we have secured \$94,639.56 and these funds can be used on a stipend, the rollover money from CDBG cannot be used on stipends, so the program has \$1,740,000 pending funds. We did not receive the ARPA funds from the city of Milwaukee
- Brighter Futures Is doing very well, they have exceeded enrollment goals this year and have been renewed for another year.
- Kodi Harding gave the Earn & Learn update
 - a. Employer applications opened February 3rd and are available on the Earn and Learn Website
 - b. We will continue our partnership with Manpower Group to facilitate participant

onboarding

- c. Financial partners will be Educator's Credit Union, and Summit Credit Union to offer financial education and bank account opportunities for participants
- d. Boys and Girls Club of Milwaukee is a continued partner supporting Career Workshops and Job-Readiness Training
- e. Earn & Learn has secured \$1,517,385 that will support 683 youth this summer the estimated cost per participant is \$2,221.80
- Wylbur shared the reentry programs – Wisconsin Partnership Project-Reentry Rising MKE.
 - a. Reentry simulation had a total of 437 participants from 2021-2024.
 - b. 93% of participants who completed the evaluation form reported that the simulation resulted in a significant increase in their understanding of what is required of formerly incarcerated people
 - c. Wisconsin Partnership – Reentry Rising MKE is a program in which employers discuss innovative ways to engage with this untapped population into employment. The Milwaukee Bucks created their Rotational Program with the Community Reintegration Center in 2022

VIII. Employer Engagement Updates

- A. Jeff McAlister, Business Solutions Manager, provided an update on hiring events
 - Social and Human Services Hiring Event – December 12th, 60 + job seekers attended
 - Manufacturing Hiring Event- February 11th 100 + job seekers attended.
 - Upcoming event March 11th First Source Construction
 - Business Solutions has received a WARN Notice from Uline that will affect 71 individuals

IX. Program Committee Member Updates

Please complete the program committee survey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EMIprogcomm25>

X. Next Program Committee: May 14. 2025

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 A.M.