



EMPLOY MILWAUKEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Youth Committee

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

1:30 pm-3:00 pm.

Via Zoom Technology

APPROVED MINUTES

Members: Michael Harris, Karen Sotak, David Knutson, Jolene Cooley, Chee Thao, Sharlen Moore, Bevin Christie

Guests: Alexander Fischer

Employ Milwaukee Staff: Julie Cayo, Brenda King, Romell Greer, Suzanne Reinstein, Kodi Harding, Oscar Delgado

Michael Harris called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm.

1. Youth Committee

a. Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2024, Youth Committee meeting

Chee Tao motioned for the approval of the meeting minutes from August 14, 2024, and was seconded by Jolene Cooley; the minutes were approved unanimously.

Introduction of the committee members to Michael Harris, the new chair of the Youth Committee.

2. Agenda Item 2: General Updates

Youth Resources and Information

Julie Cay provided the committee with resources first resource for Youth At-Risk of Homelessness. Also shared the Youth Resource Connections December issue - 11 Financial Well-Being and Wealth-Building for Opportunity Youth and lastly Advancing Apprenticeship – Opportunities for States and Business to Create and Expand.

3: Youth Program Reports:

*****Camp Rise*****

Romell Greer reported that planning sessions for Camp Rise are currently underway. There are 147 children eligible to return, including 6 boys who could be back for their fourth year in the program. A total of 99 children have completed Camp Rise and are now eligible for the Earn & Learn program; we are still determining when we will release the application for this. So far, the secured funding for Camp

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Rise amounts to \$94,639.56. However, since this is secured funding, it cannot be used for stipends. There are also pending funds of \$1,740,000 to be received.

****Earn & Learn****

Kodi Harding reported that the employer application opened on February 3rd, and we currently have 30 applications. The program will continue its partnership with Manpower Group to facilitate participant onboarding. Financial partners, including Educator's Credit Union and Summit Credit Union, provide financial education and bank account-opening opportunities for all participants. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee remain a valuable partner, supporting career workshops and job readiness training. Financial funding secured for Earn & Learn is \$1,517,385, which will serve 683 youth. Julie Cayo added that she has incorporated her written materials into the Grants Earn and Learn documentation to secure additional funding and opportunities for the program. The student application will open on March 31, 2025, with the program starting on June 23, 2025.

****YouthBuild****

Oscar Delgado reported that YouthBuild has not only met but exceeded its enrollment goal by 2 participants. The first cohort achieved 29 measurable skill gains, earned 54 credentials, and placed 6 participants with employers. Deshea Agee suggested utilizing city development projects funded by the city, emphasizing that the RPP will provide the exposure necessary for career opportunities. Bevin Christie requested that once a youth is placed, we should track them, to which Oscar confirmed that we maintain contact with our participants.

****Brighter Futures****

Romell Greer provided an update on the Brighter Futures program, which runs under contract from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. The enrollment goal was 125 participants, but the program exceeded this with 172 enrollees. In terms of grade-level completions, the goal was also surpassed, with 133 completions. Additionally, 99 individuals secured job placements, and 129 received job readiness training and social-emotional learning; of these, 107 completed the training.

****WIOA Title 1B In-School Youth Program****

Currently, the provider for this program is Uncom, with the program year lasting from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. There are currently 71 participants enrolled, 15 of whom have secured job placements, and 59 are in paid work experience. This program is ongoing, and adjustments are being made to meet the enrollment goal of 145.

****WIOA Title IBY Out-of-School Youth Program****

Suzanne Reinstein reported on this program for youth aged 16-24 who have dropped out of school and are not enrolled in post-secondary education. This program, which also runs from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, has seen 169 new enrollments, with 61 participants earning credentials, 34 securing job placements, and 78 gaining paid work experience.

4: Agenda Item: Committee Member Updates:

Sharlen Moore asked what the cadence will be for the meetings going forward. Julie shared that we would meet quarterly.

Sharlen Moore motioned for adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm CST.

Next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Next Board of Directors meeting is September 10, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.