

Chytania Brown, President & CEO
Employ Milwaukee
2342 North 27th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210
Phone: (414) 270-1700
Fax: (414) 225-2375
Website: <http://www.employmilwaukee.org>



Tom Barrett, Mayor, City of Milwaukee
Chief Elected Official

Donald W. Layden, Jr.
Chair

EMPLOY MILWAUKEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Via Zoom Technology

1:30 to 3:00 pm

Members Present: Dr. Katrice Cotton (Chair), Deshea Agee, Karen Burns Sotak, Jolene Cooley, Dionne Grayson, David Knutson, Sharlen Moore, Gerard Randall, Sylvia Swan, La Toya Sykes, Chee Thao

Members Excused: Chytania Brown, Derick Cornelius, Karen Higgins, Donta Holmes,

Employ Milwaukee Staff Present: Vanesa Carmona-Lewis, Julie Cayo, Tim McMurtry, Suzanne Reinstein, Eileen McMahon

Chair Cotton called meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

1. Welcome

Chair Cotton welcomed members to the meeting and introduced new Vice President for Programs and Business Solutions, Vanesa Carmona-Lewis.

2. Review and Approve Minutes from February 10, 2021

Chair Cotton requested members review minutes from February 10, 2021. After briefly discussing, Chair Cotton requested a motion for approval.

Gerard Randall motioned for approval of February 10, 2021, minutes; Sharlen Moore seconded; minutes approved unanimously.

3. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Plan

This topic was tabled to allow time for update from Gerard Randall on EARN & LEARN Fund Development Subcommittee. Mr. Randall reported meeting with the Milwaukee Common Council President and Executives from Milwaukee County and WI DWD to discuss how to engage various government agencies to unite and support our EARN & LEARN efforts by increasing jobs for Youth. Raising goal to 1,500 participants for this year and 2,500 for 2022. All participants of this meeting strongly supported. Mr. Randall encouraged all committee members to contact these leaders and make them aware of your interest and support in this initiative. Most importantly, this funding needs to be secured ahead of the program start up in mid-June.

Question was posed if EMI will have the flexibility with the funding to increase hourly wages from last year. Ms. Carmona-Lewis, Vice President, Programs at EMI, responded the issue of increasing wages is being explored with our CEO.

If you need this printed material interpreted to a language you understand or in a different format, or if you require other accommodations, please contact Carrie Hersh (Carrie.Hersh@employmilwaukee.org or 414-270-1726).
Deaf or hearing or speech impaired callers may reach us by the Wisconsin Relay number 711.

4. Youth Program Reports

a. EARN & LEARN

EMI staff utilized a large social media outreach in order to increase EARN & LEARN applications and worksites and added an in-person assistance component at our office. 35,000 individuals have contacted us in the last couple of weeks and 1,511 youth have completed at least Part 1 with 592 of those from Compete Milwaukee program. Worksites are at 68 and in contact with employers to get more sites. Ms. Carmona-Lewis reported United Way funding is being utilized to offer more support for youth as they return to in-person and virtual work assignments including purchase of journals and other new components being mindful of their mental health coming off a national pandemic and the new normal. Suzanne Reinstein, Youth Manager, added that a pre-requisite to summer employment of job readiness training is being presented over the course of five days. This training is intensive and includes resume writing, communication, and other soft skills, followed by a paperwork session. Schedule is being built to get all youth through this curriculum by June 21st and seven EMI youth staff have been trained this month. Chair Cotton was happy to hear about the great progress.

b. Brighter Futures

This program is a combination of ISY and Non-ISY and both low-income and not. The calendar for meeting goals is January through December, unlike WIOA which is July through June. The Boys and Girls Club (BGC) is our contracted In School Youth provider. Ms. Reinstein reported on performance outcomes:

- Enrollments current goal 71; YTD actual 29
- ACP Grade Level Completions current goal 64; YTD actual 31
- Work Experience current goal 53, YTD actual 13
- Job Readiness Training current goal 57; YTD actual 29
- SEL Completion current goal 35; YTD actual 10

A new manager was hired in last month and hope this will help increase numbers.

c. WIOA In-School Youth

Currently below on all goals with education completions and occupational skills training hit hardest. David Knutson with BGC reported there will be 100 new enrollees by July 2021, which will be 154 new enrollments and above goal of 120. He informed members the school closures have made goals challenging and 2-3 visits are needed for application completion without school support. Ms. Moore commented on the impact of the pandemic on programs across the board and gave kudos to BGC for great effort during challenging time. Question was posed if goals are not reached if extension could be requested? Ms. Carmona-Lewis responded EMI was still optimistic will reach numbers since mid-year and summer numbers are best. Ms. Moore suggested having conversation with EARN & LEARN students before end of summer and Ms. Reinstein concurred great idea.

d. WIOA Out-of-School Youth

This program focuses on high school graduates or drop-outs looking for next step. Chee Thao and Karen Sotak represent UNCOM and DWFS on this committee for these service providers. Currently exceeding goals for credentials and training enrollments, which is an improvement. Placements are below with 166 goal vs. 140 actuals. Paid youth experience was also below goal of 166 vs. 83 actuals. A possible reason for this is older youth have other jobs. Question was posed on date of metrics? Response was that WI DWD uses a formula and some metrics go back to 2018 and some 2019. Currently in Q2 of program year October through December.

e. YouthBuild

There have been two cohorts of 36 and EMI is finishing second cohort of 36, which began in August 2020. There are three worksite partners. Trainees are co-enrolled in WIOA and YouthBuild and aligned with available wrap-around services. HSED completion is a component of this training and is industry-recognized credential. EMI applied for new YouthBuild grant in February and still waiting to hear if it will be awarded. Staff have been working hard on measurable skills gain and currently exceeding goal.

f. Compete Milwaukee

This certified training for high school graduates aged 18-24 leads to credential in OSHA, safety, lead supervisor. The City of Milwaukee subsidizes this work with City contractors. 18 were enrolled for PY20 and of these only one wasn't successful. Plans are underway for another cohort with start date of July 2021. Question was posed if we track private sector data, so we have ability to acknowledge and promote those companies? Response was staff researches employer and job title, length of employment.

g. Motivated to Apprenticeship Pathways

MAP is an integrated, cognitive, behavioral change and employability program with a paid learning and training experience aimed at reducing recidivism and contact with the criminal justice system. Program is for justice-involved youth and adults, ages 18-24, residing in Milwaukee's high crime/high poverty neighborhoods. Benefits of program include career counseling, training, supportive service, driver's license recovery and placement services. This grant is sunseting and with extension will run through December 31st, 2021. Currently in follow-up phase with focus on placement and retention. Ms. Moore remarked that she appreciated the testimonials that were included in the presentation. Nice to read about positive results.

h. TechHire

This 16-week program is designed to get trainees to a certain point and then individual continues to get AA degree and further. Enrolling final participants through November 15, 2020 to meet completion and credential outcomes. Julie Cayo, VP-Strategic Planning and Performance, presented on this grant, which has been in place for four years and is now sunseting and with extension closed out with a lot of success. In partnership with MATC, EMI will offer three online IT Help Desk bootcamps in 2021. Local employers include Northwestern Mutual and Kohls. They will host interview prep and professional development opportunities and will consider candidate for hiring. Of note, summer cohort was announced with 500 individuals interested. Currently working with MATC to expand to other bootcamps that would lead to registered apprenticeship credential. Ms. Cayo reported that with COVID situation there has been an uptick in interest in these technology roles. Question was posed if any interest to look for other funding opportunities since tech industry is in high demand and successful program would help with those type of efforts? Ms. Cayo responded that it was a very good idea and staff will do some planning.

5. Youth Committee Member Updates –

Chair Cotton gave an update on MPS including which facilities were fully open and that several buildings had to be closed due to positive COVID cases.

6. Other Business

No further discussion was held.

Chair Cross adjourned meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Next Youth Committee Meeting: August 11th, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Next Board of Directors Meeting: March 11th, 2021 8:30 -10:00 a. m. via ZOOM

If you need this printed material interpreted to a language you understand or in a different format, or if you require other accommodations, please contact Carrie Hersh (Carrie.Hersh@employmilwaukee.org or 414-270-1726).
Deaf or hearing or speech impaired callers may reach us by the Wisconsin Relay number 711.

