



EMPLOY MILWAUKEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

2342 North 27th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210 - Room 116

1:30 to 3:00 pm

DRAFT MINUTES

(pending Committee approval)

Members Present: Katrice Cotton (Chair), Wilfredo Vigil (Juvenel Levros), Willie Wade, Karen Burns, Jolene Cooley (Lea Collins-Worachek), Michelle Hinton, Donta Holmes, MacArthur Weddle, David Lerner (Maria Rodriguez)

Members Excused: Derick Cornelius, Vera Ford, David Knutson, Sharlen Moore, Gerard Randall, LaToya Sykes

Employ Milwaukee Staff Present: Pete Coffaro, Scott Jansen, Rob Cherry, Toni White, Tim McMurtry, and Eileen McMahan

Guests Present:

Chair Cotton called meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

1. Introductions

Everyone present introduced themselves. Mr. Wade emphasized to members that the Youth Committee is voluntary. Chair of Youth Committee will be reporting out to Board of Directors as well as Coordinating Council.

2. By-Laws – Youth Committee

Packet information: Employ Milwaukee Youth Committee Roster, Seventh Amended & Restated Bylaws of Employ Milwaukee, Inc., pages 181-196, Recipes for Success: A Youth Committee Guide under WIOA Spring 2017,

a. Composition

Pete Coffaro reviewed bylaws, which were created using example from WI-DWD.

Roles and Responsibilities for EMI Youth Committee include:

- i. Assess the needs of the youth populations as they relate to future workforce preparation.
- ii. Encourage the coordination of services, activities, and support that enable youth to successfully attain their career goals.
- iii. Make policy recommendations for and assist in the oversight and accountability of WIOA-supported youth programs.

Committee reviewed bylaws included in packet and had brief discussion.

b. Authority & Responsibility

Mr. Coffaro presented a list of the top eleven (11) identified barriers to Youth Employment & Career Success (which was created with prior year survey results):

- Cultural skill sets (ability to switch between personal and professional environments)
- Soft skills/essential skills (critical thinking; accountability for one's actions)
- Exposure to careers and understanding pathways and possibilities
- Substance abuse & drug addiction
- Meeting minimum basic skills requirements in math and reading/literacy
- Youth mindset in terms of linking short-term thinking to long-term planning
- Social services-related issues (many living with relatives or in foster care)
- Mental health and emotional issues
- Working through conflict, handling difficult situations
- Capacity in programming – having enough opportunities for ALL youth
- Need for meaningful work (avoid leaving youth worker with little to do or busywork)

Mr. Wade distributed note cards and requested each committee member prioritize on their card what they see as top three barriers for youth in obtaining employment. This information will be compiled and discussed at the next Youth Committee meeting.

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

Packet information: Draft DWD-DET Youth Program Elements policy

a. Local Plan Updates

Mr. Coffaro indicated to members where they could find the Local Plan on our website:

<https://employmilwaukee.org/employ-milwaukee/about/wioa-local-plan.htm>

Question was posed if Local Plan speaks to future direction for Youth?

Yes, specifically as it aligns with WIOA fundable activities. However, EMI can leverage other funding/programming and can work together to design and apply for grants.

b. Policy Updates

Committee members were asked to review DWD-DET's Draft Youth Program Elements policy and send comments to peter.coffaro@employmilwaukee.org by Friday, February 15, 2019. Members expressed some concern as it related to the language of work experience and whether it would limit opportunities for youth. Mr. Coffaro presented CareerOne stop's video. CareerOne stop is a great resource for career exploration, training and jobs. Committee briefly discussed the use of videos to market available resources.

4. Youth Program Reports

As described in the EMI 2018 Annual Report, 6,110 youth were served, 1,465 youth obtained paid work experience, 587 Youth received un-subsidized employment placements with and average youth placement wage of \$9.39.

Earn & Learn Youth Program will begin on June 24th, 2019 and go for seven weeks, ending on August 9th, 2019. Applications can be received between March 18th, 2019 and April 27th, 2019. Dr. Cotton asked if EMI staff work with Guidance Counselors at the high schools? Ms. White responded that we inform High School Principals of important dates. Process is not always smooth and not all schools finish on the same date.

Next steps – Dr. Cotton offered to assist with streamlining process for communicating with high schools.

5. Youth Committee Member Updates

Job Corps – Now offering manufacturing technology and welding for youth up to age 24. Enrollment

orientation every week. Youth could go to other Job Corps centers across the country.

Boys and Girls Clubs – Future initiative with Career Plus grant. Partnering with Rob Cherry at four area high schools including Bradley Tech and Washington.

MEP – As young people improve academically, moving into higher education opportunities. A program beginning last August recruiting for youth fellows for Milwaukee Fellows; cohort of young men from two MPS schools and two Next Door Foundation sites. This program has been presented to Early Childhood Task Force with Common Council, and is based on Literacy Lab in Washington D.C. Nine individuals in first cohort. Next recruiting deadline is end of April. Planning for 15 young men in next cohort, \$35,000 per candidate. Currently in fundraising mode with support from State of WI, Employ Milwaukee, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, MPS and Next Door Foundation.

HACM – Community Job Coaches. Hosting job readiness workshop with EM for Youth. Had first one last year. Primary focus housing authority residents.

Northcott – Starting a new pre-apprenticeship training program and providing transportation to participants.

UNCOM – Checking systems and processes to improve deliverables. Striving to bring together UNCOM agencies to better align to improve youth experience. Recruiting and participating in job fairs.

Running Rebels – Working with Lead2Change on literacy program for 17-18-year-old men of color. Education in morning and providing program on community mentoring as preventative. Expanding to girls and high school girls meeting every Monday for AAU program.

Mobile Workforce Connections – Working to change narrative for students in both college and career paths by giving presentations at schools and City of Milwaukee Direct Connect to put information where out of school youth gather.

DWFS – Focusing on youth 16-24 years old. First week of program is soft skills including speaking, leadership training, timeliness, and dress. New this year is mentor path where they meet twice a week online. Youth have been receptive. Currently looking for mentors to fill 38 slots. Send Karen Burns an email if interested.

MPS – Quite a few initiatives underway. Remodeling Webster Middle School and North Division High School. Montessori Program has been added. 1825 Plan meeting parents at hospital about literacy, reading, writing and math. Enrollment Fairs for kindergarteners.

6. Other Business

Tabled due to lack of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm by Chair Dr. Cotton.

Next Youth Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 8th, 2019; 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Employ Milwaukee

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2019; 8:30 -10:00 a. m. at Employ Milwaukee

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