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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, May 15, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

2342 North 27th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Mark Kessenich (Chair), Randy Crump, Tracy Luber

Guests: Beth Norris, Alec Fischer

Employ Milwaukee Staff Present: Romell Greer, Cindy Anderson, Wylbur Holloway, Suzanne Reinstein, Carrie Hersh, Julie Cayo, Brenda King

Chair Mark Kessenich called meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

I. Committee Business

The approval of the February 21, 2024; meeting minutes were unanimously approved through a post-meeting email proxy vote as the meeting did not have a quorum.

II. Contracts and Compliance

Wylbur Holloway, Reentry Program Manager, recommended not renewing the Windows to Work contract with Ross Innovative Employment Solutions (Ross) which ends 6/30/24. EMI staff recommends direct service for the 2025 Windows to Work program, which means internal staff would implement the program. Upon approval, staff will begin the transition process with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections for training and onboarding staff members. EMI will work with Ross for the case transfer process to ensure that the caseload, both pre and post release, will be served expediently and efficiently. By 7/1/24, EMI will be fully cleared and trained to fully render services within the program sites (Racine Correctional and Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility). With this schedule, EMI will be able to achieve the enrollment goal for the contract period.

EMI staff recommended approval of a contract with Waukesha County for \$90,000 for Regional One Stop Operator services for the period of 7/1/24-6/30/25.

III. New Grants and Funding

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Julie Cayo provided an update on new grants and funding, which included \$20,000 from the Bank of America and \$40,000 from the Otto Bremer Trust to support non-federal match requirements for the YouthBuild program.

IV. Labor Market Information

Julie Cayo provided a labor market information update. Milwaukee County's unemployment rate has decreased to 3.9%, and the board has received a WARN notice from Sierra Electrotek, 37 affected, DWF Wholesale Florist, 8 affected, Social Development Commission, 28 affected, Interflight Parking, 53 affected, Sientra, 128 affected, Walmart, 105 affected, and Messmer Catholic Schools, 73 affected workers.

V. Regional One-Stop Operator Report

Beth Norris shared an overview on who and what a Regional One Stop Operator provides. The pilot for this service has cultivated excellent working relationships for the past 4 years. Top lessons received relationships are important, recognition, and learning less is more. Challenges are the WIOA legislation tied to outdated concepts and goals.

VI. Program Reports

Cindy Anderson, non-WIOA Program Manager, provided program reports on BankWork\$, Fresh Coast Tech Up, Healthy Homes Construction Careers, Milwaukee Healthcare Workforce Initiative, and the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards partnership. All grants are on track to meet outcomes and spending requirements.

Cindy Anderson reported on EMI's federal discretionary grants including Milwaukee Equitable Nursing Development (MEND), Skills to Build, Serve MKE, YouthBuild, U.S. Dept. of Labor Community Project – Milwaukee Water Works, and U.S. Dept. of Labor Community Project – Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District (MMSD). All grants are on track to meet outcomes and spending requirements.

Romell Greer, Special Programs Manager, provided reports on Camp Rise and Brighter Futures. Camp RISE will operate from June 17th through July 26th. EMI has received 1004 registrations from interested participants. 200 boys and 100 girls will be selected to participate by CDBG area, zip code, and first come/first serve. Activities scheduled are a day at City Hall, leadership/careers with the Milwaukee Bucks and a resource fair at parent orientation. Brighter Futures has 61 enrolled, 54 completed career exploration activities and ACP grade level completions, 40 completed social and emotional learning, 10 received job readiness training and 2 received work experience.

Cindy Anderson provided an update on Earn & Learn, will serve approximately 415 participants at 62 work sites in the city. Staff are planning to shift the program this year to serve the younger participants ages 14-16 due to a greater need for career readiness in this age group. Older participants will receive assistance finding unsubsidized employment opportunities and services such as resume building and job search assistance. Partnership with Educators and Summit Credit Union will provide non-custodial bank account opening opportunities for participants during the onboarding, and partnerships with CareerWork\$ and BankOn Greater Milwaukee will create opportunities to provide more substantial job-readiness training and financial literacy.

Suzanne Reinstein, WIOA Program Manager, provided an update on WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs. WIOA Adult has 673 enrolled, 379 in training, 234 have earned credentials, and 268 have job placements. WIOA Programs – Dislocated Worker has 193 enrolled, 95 in training, 36 have received credentials and 62 have job placements. WIOA Programs – Out of School Youth has 274 enrolled, 196 in

training, 128 have received credentials, 146 job placements, and 76 received paid work experience. WIOA Programs – In School Youth has 93 enrolled, 1 in training, 4 job placements, and 58 received paid work experience.

Wylbur Holloway provided an update on the WPP Wisconsin Partnership Project. Dr. Pate and Partners in Hope are completing the interviews with the incarcerated male that are integrating back into society. Employ Milwaukee is scheduled to host a reentry simulation on June 26th and October 15th to help increase the understanding of the decision-makers and public about the reentry experience. The Purposeful Dialogue team has begun working with the core replication group to finalize and replicate its conversation about our own socialization and how this can contribute to further perpetuation of injustices that those returning from incarceration may face.

VII. Employer Engagement Updates

Jeff McAlister, Business Solutions Manager, provided an update on Rapid Response services, hiring events, On-the-Job Training, and Incumbent Worker Training. Jeff noted that EMI is seeing more mass layoff notices than the previous year.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 A.M.