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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, November 20, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

2342 North 27th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Mark Kessenich (Chair), Gevanchi Hudnall, Tracy Luber, Julie Cayo

Guests: Beth Norris

Employ Milwaukee Staff Present: Wylbur Holloway, Carrie Hersch, Cindy Anderson, Mildred Coby, Alec Fischer, Brenda King, Jeff McAlister

Chair Mark Kessenich called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

II. Committee Business

August 21, 2024; meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Tracy Luber and seconded by Julie Cayo.

III. Contracts and Compliance

A. Policy approvals for None

B. Contracts

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| DWD QUEST/DWFS and EQUUS | \$100,000 |
| Bio Health Tech Hub WRTP | \$540,000 |
| DCF Brighter Futures- Boys & Girls Clubs | \$250,000 |
| National Education Foundation | N/A |
| WIOA Youth-Special Projects | 3 Contracts between \$100,000-\$150,000 |
| WOW | \$153,83 |

Julie moved to approve the DWD Quest, Bio Health Tech Hub WRTP, DCF Brighter Futures, WIOA Youth Special Projects, and WOW Skills to Build - Tracy Luber 2nd the motion was approved unanimously. Mark Kessenich abstained from the vote.

Millie Coby discussed the National Education Foundation, which offers a digital literacy course online at no cost to Employ Milwaukee. This course aims to provide pathways to job readiness for the upcoming generation. It is entirely online with 24-hour access, but it does not offer college

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credits. Julie Cayo expressed her concerns about signing off on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She believes the program places the burden entirely on individuals without any assistance. Julie feels that Employ Milwaukee should collaborate with programs that provide credentials or college credits. Additionally, she pointed out that this is not a completely free program, as they require us to sell the program to someone else before we can access it at no cost. The committee agreed that this time of the program would not be beneficial for the agency at this time.

IV. New Grants and Funding

Wylbur Holloway reported that Milwaukee County has funded the CRC center with \$112,00 a year and \$598,317 over five years for a specialist.

V. Labor Market Information

Julie Cayo provided a labor market information update. Milwaukee County's unemployment rate is low 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 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

- A. Wylbur shared the reentry programs – Wisconsin Partnership Project-Reentry Rising MKE.
- Dr. David Pate is the research partner who has been evaluating the concept of reentry from a policy-to-practice standpoint while focusing on the acquisition and maintenance of employment and housing for men returning from incarceration.
 - Improve understanding of how service providers' policies and practices contribute to health inequality. The goal is to have this report by early December. The WPP grant will end at the end of 2024. Mark Kessenich suggested that Dr. Pate present at the next program committee meeting.
 - The reentry simulation which is also a part of the WPP project on October 30th here at Employ Milwaukee, had a very good turnout. Alex Fisher shared with the committee that he attended the simulation, and it was a very good program he has shared this with his DWD location and would love to see the report

VIII. Employer Engagement Updates

- A. Jeff McAlister, Business Solutions Manager, provided an update on hiring events
- First Source Construction – October 3rd, 50+ job seekers attended
 - Manufacturing Hiring Event- November 7th, 40+ job seekers attended.

IX. Program Committee Member Updates

No Updates

X. Next Program Committee: February 19, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 A.M.