

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>



Cavalier Johnson, Mayor, City of Milwaukee
Chief Elected Official

Carla Cross, **Chair**

EMPLOY MILWAUKEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

2342 North 27th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Mark Kessenich (Chair), Chytania Brown, Randy Crump, Parker Rios, Joni Theobald,

Guests: Beth Norris, Alec Fischer

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

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

I. Committee Business

Parker Rios motioned for approval of the November 15, 2023; meeting minutes as circulated; Randy Crump seconded; approved unanimously.

II. Contracts and Compliance

There were not contract approvals at the meeting. Julie Cayo provided an update on the WIOA Local and Regional plans, which have been posted on employmilwaukee.org and all comments should be submitted to Julie Cayo by phone, email, or mail. Julie stated that online surveys were given to three stakeholder groups – Business/Labor, community organizations, and WIOA Required Partners. All feedback was incorporated into the Local and Regional Plans. The Directors of WDAs 1, 2, and 3 agreed on outreach processes and met monthly to provide strategies for the Regional Plan.

III. Annual Review of Policies

Julie Cayo presented two policy updates for committee consideration. The Individual Training Account (ITA) Policy program limitations were updated, and the Local Records Retention Policy has been updated to reflect seven (7) years retention for fiscal documents and three (3) years for programmatic documents. Randy Crump motioned to accept policy changes, Chytania Brown seconded, and the committee voted unanimously on all the policy updates.

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IV. New Grants and Funding

Juile Cayo provided a grants update. Julie said that EMI, along with the Wisconsin Biohealth Tech Hub partners, will be submitting a Phase II grant application in partnership with Madison College, MATC, W RTP/Big Step and UW-Milwaukee.

V. Labor Market Information

Juile Cayo provided a labor market update. Milwaukee County's unemployment rate has decreased, and the board has received a WARN notice from Charter Communications that will affect 179 people.

VI. Regional One-Stop Operator Report

Beth Norris provided a regional one-stop report and information on foot traffic at each job center and customer survey feedback.

VII. Program Reports

Romell Greer provided an update on Camp RISE, which will run from June 17th – July 26th at North Division High School. The camp will host 300 kids this summer - 100 girls and 200 boys. Camp RISE will have different field trips and hands on training at different locations in the city of Milwaukee, as well as job readiness training. EMI is working with Milwaukee Recreation department to manage the hiring of staff. Staff is still working on payment options to create the best option for the 10 – 13-year-olds' stipends.

Cindy Anderson provided an update on Earn and Learn, which is currently accepting applications from employers (worksites), with the participant application opening March 1, 2024. The program will run from June 17th to August 4th. EMI will be partnering with Educators Credit Union and Summit Credit Union to provide additional financial literacy education and account options.

Romell Greer stated that the Skillful Transitions grant completed on September 30, 2023 and 1,127 individuals enrolled, 932 completed training, 266 received paid work experience, and 264 had support services provided.

Suzy Reinstein provided a report on WIOA programs. The WIOA Adult program enrolled 512 new participants, 306 received training/education enrollments, 160 earned credentials and 169 received job placement. The WIOA Dislocated Worker program enrolled 118, 55 received training/education, 21 earned credentials and 35 have job placement.

Wylbur Holloway provided an update on reentry programs. Windows to Work that is a pre- and post-release program designed to address criminogenic needs that can lead to recidivism, including employment, education, anti-social cognition. anti-social personality, and anti-social companions. The DOC holds a contract currently with 11 WDAs to provide programs at selected state correction institutions or county facilities in each workforce area. Employ Milwaukee has 2 locations MSDF and RCI. Participation goal is 82 and currently serving 27, and the transfer participant goal is 61 and current serving 25 for FY24. Employ Milwaukee received ARPA funding to complete a CRC Welding program. The goal is to have 75 CRC individuals trained by 2024. MATC will provide instruction and participants will receive a digital badge which has credits that can be used towards the Welding Technical Diploma at MATC. Employ Milwaukee staff have provided job readiness, digital literacy and cognitive behavioral training during the pre/post release phases.

Cindy Anderson provided an update on the BankWork\$ program, which has four (4) Cohorts scheduled for 2024 on 1/16, 4/09, 7/09 & 10/01. The January Cohort had 7 completions and 60% of the class received placement with a partner bank and the current class has 7 students enrolled.

Cindy Anderson provided an update on the Fresh Coast Tech UP (FCTU) program, which is a partnership with MATC, Digital Bridge, and employers to provide a 12 credit bootcamp style IT Help Desk Certified pre-apprenticeship training. FCTU Spring 2024 has 24 participants that starting on January 16th and the FCTU NXT has 5 participants that starting also on January 16th.

Cindy Anderson indicated that the Healthy Homes Construction Careers program goes through 12/31/24. To date, 450 individuals have been enrolled, 175 earned credentials, and 246 participated in paid work experience. Graduates will receive lead abatement certifications and Asbestos Abatement, First Aid, OSHA 30, and a Wisconsin Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate.

Cindy Anderson said the Milwaukee Healthcare Workforce Initiative is the grant from The Medical College of Wisconsin to expand community-based organizations. The grant will serve 200 people that will receive job readiness, and occupation skill training for career in healthcare industry, once completed they will receive an interview with Advocate Aurora.

Cindy Anderson updated the committee on the new Serve MKE Program which EMI was awarded \$2,661,661 from the U.S. Dept. of Labor to support the hospitality sector in Milwaukee. The grant includes funding for employment and training services, paid work experience/internships, on the job training, occupational skills training (accelerated and/or post-secondary), incumbent working training, supportive services, and incentives. The length of the project is 3 years with 1 year of planning via the Serve MKE Council. The target population is the unemployed, underemployed and the incumbent worker who are Milwaukee County residents from the historically marginalized population including women, people of color, Veterans, economically disadvantaged individuals with disabilities, and justice-involved individuals with a focus on populations and communities residing near Milwaukee's greater downtown area.

VIII. Employer Engagement Updates

Jeff McAlister reviewed the hiring events, rapid response events, OJTs, and Incumbent Worker Trainings from the past quarter.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 A.M.

Next Program Committee Meeting May 15, 2024

Next Board of Directors Meeting June 6, 2024