



**NEW ORLEANS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

NOWDB Full Board
JOB1 Business and Career Solutions Center
1307 Oretha Castle Haley – New Orleans, LA
June 12, 2024 | 11:00AM
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Members Present

Gregory Curtis
Claire Jecklin
Floyd James
Thelma French
Arlanda Williams
Rachel Mackey
Peter Pappas
Runiaja Vicksbrown
Andrew O'Brien, Sr.
Jeffrey Schwartz
Danielle Garrett
Connie Carlson
Chris Bardell
Desiree Stelly Bordenave

Members Absent

Melissa Sparks
Allen Square
Mikal Anderson
Charlene Bonck
Dottie Belletto
Jerry Repka
Allyson Wilson
Katherine Felton
Rodney Wallis
Kellie Payne Spencer
Suri L. Duitch

Staff and Guest

Sunae Villavaso
Neia Limar
Tammie Washington
Sabrina Johnson
Tyra Brown
Leonard Zanders
Lisa Boyd
Neron North-Green
Chanttell Patin

I. **Call to Order**

Board Chair Gregory Curtis called the meeting to order at 11:11AM

II. **Roll Call**

Board Chair Curtis forewent roll call.

Board Members who attended the meeting virtually: Allen Square, Mikal Anderson

III. **Board Chair Updates**

Please note for the record that NOWDB members or members of the public who are participating via TEAMS can submit comments or questions on the chat box and the Board Chair will recognize all public comments at the appointed time of the meeting. Mr. Curtis welcomed new NOWDB Members; Chris Bardell, Desiree Bordenave, and Stacey Shepperson. Mr. Curtis advised the group that he will be attending the US

Conference of Mayors Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri next week. Mr. Curtis invited board member Peter Pappas to share information regarding the Workforce Development Council's Best Practices Convening with the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development in East Orange, New Jersey and Boston, Massachusetts that was hosted in New Orleans by the New Orleans Office of Workforce Development on May 21 – 23, 2024.

Board Member Peter Pappas and Director Sunae Villavaso shared their thoughts on the outcomes of the drone demonstration that took place as part of the events on Day 2 of the convening and the overall conference. Mrs. Villavaso shared the challenges of and strategies employed by the Office of Workforce Development of East Orange, NJ to address their summer youth employment services. She continued by saying, looking ahead to the summer of 2025, the OWD is considering utilizing a 3rd party vendor to help improve the overall process of paying the youth who are enrolled in the MSYEP in a timely manner. This will be initiated with a Request for Proposal. She added that additional challenges arose with placing 16-17-year-old youths in job locations and that Mayor Cantrell provided a solution by issuing an "All Call" to take in students into City departments resulting in all students being placed.

Chairman Curtis reminded board members of their service term end dates and advised them of the procedure to renew their status. Board member Arlanda Williams posed a policy question regarding appointing a designated alternate.

Approval of the NOWDB Full Board Draft Meeting Minutes April 17, 2024

Motion by: Arlanda Williams

Second by: Peter Pappas

No Opposition

The motion was approved by unanimous decision.

Board Staff Updates/Program Oversight Report

Director Villavaso discussed the WIOA reauthorization discussion that took place at the full committee hearing led by Senators Bernie Sanders and Bill Cassidy. She elaborated on the push back by Dr. Monty Sullivan against WIOA and shared the ideas he expressed at the hearing. A healthy discussion was had around the ideas and suggestions that Dr. Sullivan expressed.

Mrs. Villavaso continued her report by sharing information regarding New Orleans and Region 1 sectorial partnerships. She also shared plans on how the New Orleans Office of Workforce Development will help our re-entry population. She advised the group that OWD obtained \$1.2 million to train individuals nearing the end of their prison term. Once released, these individuals are connected to employment, resources and supportive services. Additionally, Mrs. Villavaso shared with the group that discussions are taking place in partnership with Delgado Community College regarding Career Pathways and its flexibility for those enrolled in the program. She concluded her

report with an update on the performance measures for the program year which ends on June 30, 2024. OWD and Job1 received their 3rd quarter performance report which indicates that the center has either met or exceeded performance targets. Director Leonard Zanders added that, with the exception of Youth Credential Attainment and Measurable Skills Gains, Job1 is currently meeting or exceeding in all other federal performance metrics.

Finance Chair Floyd James shared his thoughts on the progress of OWD since 2018 that he was able to share with OWD's guests from the Mayor's Office of East Orange, NJ and Boston, MA during the New Orleans convening in May.

Added that Mayor Cantrell's Intergovernmental Team extended an invitation to Senator Cassidy to visit the Job1 facility to gain a better understanding of the work and mission of OWD. Once this visit is confirmed, Mrs. Villavaso encouraged board members to be involved and be in attendance to present a united front for OWD.

Chairman Curtis appealed to any board members who are on any Superbowl 2025 committee to highlight the work being done at OWD and Job1.

Board member French spoke about a meeting she attended with the City Services Coalition led by Pres Kabacoff who are working with a national consortium of city planners. She encouraged the group to offer the coalition a position or a statement of OWD's plan.

Finance Committee Update

Finance Committee Chair Floyd James reported details of the expenditures through April 30, 2024. He highlighted that the overall expenditure rate for the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs are at 63.33% through January 2024 with 3% of the grant life remaining on the carryover and 53% grant life remaining on current PY23 allocation.

Chairman Curtis reminded the group to continue hosting sub-committee meetings and to reiterated that each board member should be assigned to a sub-committee.

Business Engagement Committee Update

Board Member Peter Pappas shared details of two draft surveys; one created for businesses and the other for employment candidates. The purpose of the survey to business is to understand whether businesses are hiring based on skills or education level. The purpose of the survey for workforce is to understand whether candidates are seeking employment based on their current job role or do they see the possibility of transferable skills.

Operator Report

Director Leonard Zanders summarized the formal 3rd quarter report of Job1's federal performance metrics. He detailed the results of the four major metrics; job retention, measurable skills gains, credential attainment, and median earnings. He continued with a recap of the Careers on the Boulevard Expo and its successful turnout. A discussion was had around dislocated worker services and training.

IV. Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

V. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

VI. Office of Community Development

Executive Director of Housing Policy, Community Development and Workforce Development Tyra Johnson Brown introduced herself to the group. She explained that the Office of Workforce Development now falls under the jurisdiction of the Office of Community Development. She advised the group that she oversees the management of Workforce Development. She stated that she would be providing the board with information related to ARPA funds. She advised the group that Workforce Development was awarded \$11 million and that a NOFA was released in January and extended. A total of 82 applications were received, read and scored. She advised the group that she halted and postponed selections during the selection process due to "predetermined selections". Additional application readers were brought in for a total of 49 readers, giving each proposal 3 readers. Mrs. Brown continued to disclose that subsequent allegations of "big (bid) rigging" resulting in a re-read and re-scoring of the proposals. She explained that ARPA funding is divided into 4 categories; Youth, Creative Art, Supportive Services, and Training. Award letters for 3 of the 4 categories (Youth, Creative Art, and Supportive Services) are currently being prepared to notify the receiving agencies. A NOFA for Training was re-released last Friday with a deadline of June 21, 2024. The Selection Committee will reconvene to address just the Training component. A Question & Answer session was had to provide more clarity around Training.

VII. Adjourn

Motion by: Andrew O'Brien, Sr.

Second by: Claire Jecklin

No Opposition

The motion was approved by unanimous decision.

The meeting adjourned at 12:47pm.