

**Program Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes**

**April 20, 2023**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:** Mike Hesketh, Christine Tarquinio, Caitlin Blair, Jenny Lampton, Leslie Martin, Patricia Williams

**Staff:** Michael Gritton, Alicia Pardo, Chris Locke, Angella Wilson, Bailey Preston, Brian Luerman, Dana Moorer, Evelyn Woock, Katie Elliott, Patrick Garvey, Aleece Smith, Stacy Roderick, Tara Ferguson, Jaime Disney, Latricia Swope, Regina Phillips, Darrius Brooks

**Contractors/Guests:** Kimberly Boyd-Lane, Yvonne Jones, Renee Walters, Rosell Hamilton, Rena Sharpe, Eric Hicks, Sherry Wade, Ashley Janicki, Sara Dodeci, Rodney Cross, Lynn Rippy, Martha Stephenson, Ray Mansfield

**Welcome and Greetings:** *Mike Hesketh*

Chairman Hesketh was delighted to welcome the Program Oversight Committee, staff, and guests to the meeting.

**Review & Approve Minutes from February Meeting 2023 Minutes – Mike Hesketh**

A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Jenny Lampton and seconded by Christine Tarquinio. The motion passed without opposition.

**Update: The Spot: Young Adult Opportunity Campus – Michael Gritton, Rena Sharpe**

Michael stated that he had sent out a memo to the Board of Directors about the unfortunate events that occurred on Monday, April 10, 2023. A Spot participant was gunned down and killed at the entrance of the program, at Jefferson Community and Technical College's 8<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut campus. Another Spot participant was shot multiple times but was not killed, and she's now in the hospital. Michael introduced Rena Sharpe to talk about the management at The Spot and the safety measures taken for the students and staff.

Rena talked about the steps that are taken by the staff when it comes to traumatic events like this. She started by stating that the staff at the Spot are resilient and understand the dangers when working with an at-risk young adult population who want to turn their life around. She emphasized to the committee how hard it is for these particular young people to escape the violence they have lived in.

Since the tragic events, the staff has had some time off to heal and have access to therapy. Goodwill provides 12 free counseling service hours to all employees at The Spot as well. She stated that she and Michael are appealing to the Metro Council to help expand The Spot to help more young adults that are hurting and in need of the programs. She also stated that they have prioritized full-time security at The Spot, and they met with Officer Haygood and Officer Collins from the LMPD to gain guidance to help the students and staff feel safe going forward. In conclusion, she stated that they are not quitting to help these young people. Michael reaffirmed the alignment that KentuckianaWorks has with this work, and they will continue to get funding to support the work.

**Vote Needed: Update on American Rescue Plan-funded Work with Returning Citizens, and Recommendation to Extend our Contract with the Center for Employment Opportunities through December 2024 – Angella Wilson, Ray Mansfield**

Angella started with a brief overview of the CRES Project which stands for Comprehensive Reentry

Employment Services. Because this project is funded by the American Rescue Plan, Alicia Arriati, the Project Manager from Louisville Forward, has been with KentuckianaWorks to make sure the project is a success. Angella introduced the Louisville Site Director of the Center for Employment Opportunities. Ray Mansfield has been with the organization for 3 years, and he has been in the leadership role for the past year. Angella presented the project term goals for CRES. Ray presented the operations of the CRES project and the ARP funding significance. The [presentation](#) was sent out to the Committee after the meeting. Angella opened the floor for questions and comments.

Jenny Lampton asked if there are two job developers for the CRES project, what work groups are being developed, and the time frame of their employment. Ray responded that there is one job developer on-site, and the other is virtual support. He also stated that they are in conversation with Block by Block to add a crew approved by Louisville Downtown Partnership. Codes and Regulations and GE Appliances have expressed interest in adding a crew as well. The work crews can work up to 75 days until they find employment, but Ray expressed that the offices try to find them placement within 30 to 45 days. Caitlin Blair expressed her appreciation for the emphasis on the wage rates and getting connected with Ray to see if the Labor Union has potential employers to add work crews as well.

KentuckianaWorks seeks approval to negotiate the renewal of the CEO's sub-agreement as the Comprehensive Re-entry Employment Services (CRES) service provider through December 2024 (PY24), with a budget not to exceed \$1,500,000 in American Rescue Plan funds. A motion to approve the renewal was made by Christine Tarquinio and seconded by Caitlin Blair. The motion was passed without opposition.

**Presentation and Discussion: Our Partnership with Goodwill to Help People Get off Public Benefits and into Employment through what we call the Power of Work** – *Angella Wilson, Kimberly Boyd-Lane*

Angella began her presentation on [The Power of Work Program](#). She took some time talking about the Leadership Team. Kimberly Boyd-Lane from Goodwill took over the presentation and talked about the history and an overview of the services they provide. The presentation was made available to the Committee at the end of the meeting. She then opened the floor for comments and questions.

Michael Gritton asked for information on the average wages to help people into jobs from the past 2 years. Kimberly was happy to say that the year-to-date average wage for the Power of Work program is \$15.08. For March alone, the average was \$16.35. Patricia Williams celebrated the progress on the increased wage while noting that it may not be a livable wage. She stated that pushing for further progress is always the focus.

**Executive Director's Report** – *Michael Gritton*

Michael started with his report by announcing that Mayor Greenberg's Budget Address to the Metro Council is on April 27<sup>th</sup>. KentuckianaWorks has asked for a substantial amount, and we'll learn next week whether any of those funding increases are included in the Budget. He shared the good news that Deputy Secretary Beth Brinly at the Workforce Cabinet informed him that her office has recommended to the Governor that he approve both of KentuckianaWorks' requests for WIOA discretionary funding – for Year 3 of Code Kentucky, and for our partnership with the Louisville Urban League called Kentuckiana Builds.

**Adjourn** - *Mike Hesketh*

Chairman Hesketh thanked everyone for participating. The Program Oversight Committee will be meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 9 am. With there being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.