



Program Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

via Google Meet

Members Present: Mike Hesketh, Christine Tarquinio, Jenny Lampton, Leslie Martin, Patricia Williams, Andi Pollard

Staff: Michael Gritton, Alicia Pardo, Chris Locke, Angella Wilson, Bailey Preston, Lada Gasparac, Evelyn Woock, Patrick Garvey, Aleece Smith, Jaime Disney, Darrius Brooks, Dana Moorer, Brian Luerman, Bryan Griffin, Regina Phillips, Sarah Ehresman

Contractors/Guests: Kimberly Boyd-Lane, Yvonne Jones, Renee Walters, Eric Hicks, Ashley Janicki, Sara Dodeci, Rodney Cross, Martha Stephenson, Yvonne Jones, Ray Mansfield, Lynn Rippy, Betty Fox

Welcome New POC Member Andi Pollard from GE Appliances – Mike Hesketh

Chairman Hesketh was delighted to welcome the Program Oversight Committee, staff, and guests to the meeting. He welcomed new POC Member Andi Pollard. Andi Pollard is the Human Resources Director at GE Appliances. She has been with the company for about seven years and is currently working with the supply chain organization.

Vote Needed: Review & Approve Minutes from June Meeting 2023 Minutes – Mike Hesketh

A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Patricia Williams and seconded by Andi Pollard. The motion passed without opposition.

Vote Needed: Review and Approve Staff Recommendation for a Contract with YouthBuild Louisville to Run SummerWorks 2024 for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$625,000 – Chris Locke, Lynn Rippy, and Michael Gritton

Chris Locke stated that they are seeking approval to negotiate the renewal of the contract with YouthBuild Louisville to run SummerWorks for the program year 2023-2024 not to exceed the amount of \$625,000. Because there was a new member, Chris summarized the background of SummerWorks and referred to the presentation that was presented by Lynn Rippy. Chris highlighted that SummerWorks just finished their 13th season of operation, and YouthBuild has been the operator for seven years.

Chris spoke about the current status of the SummerWorks program according to the memo that was given to the committee. In 2023, 505 youth were directly placed in jobs, and SummerWorks also had 90 participants complete the online voluntary Job Readiness curriculum. For the program year 2024, SummerWorks is beginning the year with \$1.2 million:

- \$1 million from Louisville Metro
- \$110,000 from the Jewish Heritage Fund; and
- approximately \$100,000 in normal “carryover” i.e. unspent funds from the last program year

In addition, roughly \$1.3 million in unspent funds from previous years will be invested in the program over the next three years. He also highlighted some of the changes expected in SummerWorks in 2024:

- Opening the registration portal three to four months earlier than we have in the previous 4 years;
- Increasing the hourly wage paid to SummerWorks participants from \$12.00 to \$15.00 per hour making it the third raise in five years.
- Exposing more participants to job-readiness training and skill-building sessions using real-world online modules, career cards, and potentially the Stephen Covey “The Leader in Me” curriculum;
- Engaging participants more continually and connecting them to year-round opportunities featured on the KentuckianaEARNs portal;
- Working in partnership with YouthBuild and the Cleaner World Project to pilot exposing participants to AG-TECH and Drone Training work in a year-round experience;
- Creating opportunities for more participants to become banked by establishing direct deposit accounts at a partnering financial institution;
- Embedding Financial Education into the SummerWorks orientations and onboarding sessions; and
- Discussing and possibly transitioning the SummerWorks Payroll Distributor & Employer of Record function to YouthBuild.

Lynn Rippy began by introducing the new Program Manager for SummerWorks, Steve James. Lynn began her presentation [2023 SummerWorks End of Year Recap](#) showing the registration and participation data as well as numerous testimonials from employers and the youth participants. The presentation was sent to the committee at the end of the meeting.

KentuckianaWorks sought approval to begin negotiations to renew the contract with YouthBuild Louisville to continue as the SummerWorks operator with the budget not expected to exceed \$625,000 for the program year starting October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. A motion was made by Patricia Williams and seconded by Jennifer Lampton. The motion was approved without opposition.

Presentation and Discussion: New Tools for Career Exploration– Sarah Ehresman

Sarah Ehresman introduced herself to the committee as the Director of Labor Market Intelligence for KentuckianaWorks. Sarah provides REAL (Relevant, Easy, Accessible, Local) data on the local labor market as well as a new tool that provides the ability to explore careers for our job seekers and students. CareerCalculator.org was the original website developed in 2016. This allowed for anyone such as employers, job seekers, local elected officials, etc. to have access to data about a particular occupation in the region. Sarah announced to the committee that they have revamped the website and introduced the new Explore Careers website at www.kentuckianaworks.org/explore. She gave a brief overview of the website and a tutorial on where to get the data for each occupation in the highlighted sector that KentuckianaWorks is focusing on. She also explained to the committee that because the website links are live, they can further explore the training programs they need to obtain that occupation. Once she concluded, she opened the floor for comments and questions.

Chairman Hesketh asked if the tool could be used in the high schools. He felt this would be an incredible tool for the students who need guidance. Michael and Sarah agreed, but Sarah added that it is a bit of a challenge to work with JCPS. Although they love the tool, Sarah would have to reach out to each high school to get them to use the tool. Sarah also highlighted that even if you do happen to go to the old



website, it will redirect you to the new one. She mentioned that the site is powered by Lightcast, which is a conglomerate organization that does labor market and economic data, so the site is updated automatically every quarter.

Presentation and Discussion: Quick Update on Adult Career Centers – Angella Wilson

Angella started with a presentation [Adult Career Centers Update](#). She reminded the committee that two of the centers are relocating. The Power of Work is moving the second half of its office out of the 600 West Cedar location and into the Goodwill Opportunity Campus at the corner of 28th and Broadway. The Kentucky Career Center at the Nia Center is also moving to the Goodwill Opportunity Campus. The official move will take place in February of 2024 and the Open House of the entire Campus will be in March of 2024. She went through the presentation and it was provided to the committee at the end of the meeting. Michael stated that once the center is relocated, he will organize an in-person meeting for the committee to visit in the Spring.

Executive Director's Report – Michael Gritton

Michael started his report by announcing that SOAR, a nonprofit organization in eastern Kentucky, received a \$1.5 million grant from the Department of Labor. They have been partnered with KentuckianaWorks, and are now a new funding vehicle for Code Kentucky. Code Kentucky has placed 43 individuals in new jobs between northern and eastern Kentucky. On September 22, the KentuckianaWorks Board is having a special meeting where he will be giving an update on the work with the nine other Workforce Innovation Board (WIB) Directors on the request for funding from the State of Kentucky. Michael stated that the WIB Directors and he will be testifying on Thursday, September 26, in front of the Joint Economic Development and Workforce Investment Interim Joint Committee in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Adjourn - Mike Hesketh

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