

**TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD/CITY OF LONG BEACH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
BOARD YOUTH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

HEMPTSEADWORKS CAREER CENTER

May 16, 2019

Attendees:

Theresa Adams, Town of Hempstead
Elizabeth Ajasin, DOOR
Myesha Arvon, DOOR
Gregory Becker, Commissioner, DOOR
Sharon Carty-Johnson, EAC Network, Inc.
Senior Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby, Town of Hempstead Board
Sara Griffith, Chairperson, Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County
Henry Holley, Town of Hempstead Housing Authority
Ana-Maria Hurtado, Commissioner, WDB Director, DOOR
Edward Kenny, DOOR
Maria Lombardi, DOOR
Yvonne Morrissey, DOOR
Rosa Murciano, New York Community Bancorp
Alan Nachman, Diversified Microsystems, Inc.
Kurt Rockensies, DOOR
Veronica Rose-Craig, ACCES-VR
Sal Scibetta, DOOR
Detective Raquel Spry-Dacres, Hempstead Police Department
Lieutenant Derek Warner, Hempstead Police Department
Barbara Weissberg, ACCES-VR

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M. by Sara Griffith, Chairperson. At her request, each of the attendees introduced themselves.

II. Review of Minutes

Ms. Griffith asked the members to review the minutes from the meeting of November 15, 2018. A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Rosa Murciano, seconded by Gregory Becker, and accepted by the Committee.

III. In-School Youth Services Proposal Review

Ms. Griffith recused herself from the process of selecting proposals to be recommended to the Workforce Development Board because one of the proposals being reviewed is from her employer, ucpn. Sal Scibetta described the Request for Proposals (RFP) process

for In-School Youth Program Services. Mr. Scibetta explained that the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) In-School Youth program is a year-round program with a summer component, while the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program is a summer program only. Both programs provide internships to youth during the summer. They will work from July 5, 2019 to August 16, 2019 and earn \$12.00 per hour. He provided the following documents for review:

1. Fact sheets pertaining to both the WIOA Year-Round Youth Program and the TANF Summer Youth Employment Program. The fact sheets summarized how the programs would operate and how the proposal costs were calculated for program coordination.
2. Budget summaries pertaining to each program, which listed the amounts requested by each proposed program operator.

The Committee reviewed summaries of the proposals submitted by the following organizations:

- 1) Baldwin Public Schools
- 2) Five Towns Community Center
- 3) Hempstead Public Schools
- 4) Roosevelt Public Schools
- 5) Uniondale Public Schools
- 6) Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County (ucpn)
- 7) Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County, Inc.

A motion was offered by Gregory Becker to recommend to the Town of Hempstead/City of Long Beach Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) that all of the proposals be recommend for approval provided that the budgets may change. The motion was seconded by Alan Nachman and accepted by the Committee.

IV. Out-of-School Youth Proposal Review

Ms. Griffith invited Elizabeth Ajasin to give a summary of the Out-of-School Youth proposals. Ms. Ajasin explained that the solicitation was published in October 2018 to procure vendor services for program years 2019 and 2020. WIOA requires that 75% of WIOA youth funding be spent on out-of-school youth while 20% be spent on work experience.

Ms. Ajasin's summary included references to the WIOA out-of-school youth eligibility requirements, as well as the WIOA program Design Framework and Program Elements. The two applicants for this RFP were EAC Network, Inc. and Nassau BOCES, and Ms.

Ajasin requested a motion to recommend that the proposals be approved. Mr. Becker asked if EAC and Nassau BOCES were the only applicants for this round of procurement, and Ms. Ajasin assented. A motion to recommend to the LWDB that the EAC proposal be approved as submitted was offered by Ms. Murciano, seconded Mr. Becker, and accepted by the Committee. Afterwards, a motion to recommend to the LWDB that the Nassau BOCES proposal be approved as submitted was offered by Mr. Becker, seconded by Lieutenant Warner and accepted by the Committee.

V. Out-of-School and In-School Youth Programs Report

Ms. Griffith asked Myesha Arvon to give a report on the Out-of-School and In-School Youth programs. Ms. Arvon explained that Out-of-School Youth services are contracted by the Town of Hempstead Department of Occupational Resources (DOOR) to EAC Network, Inc. and Nassau BOCES. She indicated that there are currently 92 active participants, and she provided more information about the WIOA program elements. To be eligible for the program, youth must be between the ages of 18 and 24 and have at least one barrier to employment. Youth enrolled in the program have access to occupational skills training and job placement services.

For the In-School Youth program, Ms. Arvon explained that around 100 youth will be participating in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) in the upcoming program year. Under WIOA and TANF, the youth participate in a 6-week program that includes work experience and an academic component. While WIOA is a year-round program, TANF is limited to the summer months. Ms. Arvon also explained that during the school year, the youth are tracked as long as they are active in the program and then for an additional 12 months after they exit the program. To be eligible for the program, youth must be low-income, in school, between the ages of 17-21 and have a barrier. Other than age, the only other requirement for eligibility in TANF is to be low-income.

Senior Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby asked if recruitment for the In-School Youth Program has already begun. Ms. Arvon responded that the youth coordinators are recruiting participants, but DOOR has the responsibility of determining their eligibility.

VI. Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Round 8 Update

Ms. Griffith invited Maria Lombardi, Disability Resource Coordinator, to give an update on the DEI project. Some of the progress made under the project includes expanding career pathways partnerships, acquiring new assistive technology, and increasing recruitment and outreach. Ms. Lombardi also spoke about DOOR's efforts to procure staff training consultants. The Cornell University Yang Tan Institute will be providing free staff training at the end of May. Mr. Becker asked what subjects Cornell with

address. Ms. Lombardi responded that they will provide training on disability in the workforce development system and strategies for employing people with disabilities.

VII. YouthBuild – United Way of Long Island

Ms. Griffith explained that YouthBuild is a nationally-renowned program whose purpose is to enable disadvantaged youth to obtain education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in in-demand occupations and postsecondary education and training opportunities. Hempstead and YouthBuild will be collaborating in the upcoming program year. Edward Kenny explained that the YouthBuild program operates primarily in Suffolk County, but will now have a presence in Nassau County; the program will recruit youth and host events at the HempsteadWorks location.

Mr. Becker asked what youth in the program will be learning. Mr. Kenny responded that youth participants will learn to build houses and will gain certifications for construction skills. Throughout the program, youth also learn work ethic and gain maturity. Ms. Hurtado added that some participants are recruited and hired by unions.

VIII. Old Business/New Business

Ms. Murciano talked about how amazed she is by the services DOOR provides for youth. New York Community Bank provides financial literacy classes to Out-of-School youth participants at EAC. Mr. Kenny thanked Ms. Murciano for the bank's financial contribution to the program year 2018 summer program. Ms. Murciano encouraged DOOR to apply for more funding for program year 2019.

Ms. Carty-Johnson shared three stories about Out-of-School youth participants. The first story was about T.J., a 21 years old veteran who suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He has worked on a personal level with DOOR's youth provider, and is pursuing training to become a Computer Network Specialist. During an exam, T.J. began to feel anxious, and staff at the school called his coordinator speak with him. She was able to help him relax with breathing exercises and encouragement. Afterwards, T.J. returned to the exam and passed with flying colors. T.J. currently holds a 3.5 GPA in the course. The second story was about E.F., who had participated in the Opportunities Long Island YouthBuild program. He recently graduated from the program and is receiving interest from 5 different unions. The third story is about G.P., is a young woman training to become a medical assistant. She currently interns for the Center for Science Teaching and Learning.

Mr. Becker mentioned that many youth look forward to the summer program. He spoke about the graduation ceremony that ucpn has for its youth participants at the end of the summer. Ms. Griffith added that her youth participants are encouraged when working

with people with disabilities. The program helps the youth with college preparation, and throughout the years, many youth have gone on to college.

Lieutenant Warner spoke about the Hempstead Police Adolescent Diversion Program, which provides services to youth to help reduce convictions and recidivism. Mr. Nachman asked how the youth are convinced to participate in the program. Lieutenant Warner responded that because the program is a mentorship program, the youth feel more willing to participate.

Mr. Kenny spoke about the Opioid National Dislocated Worker grant, which will provide services to individuals impacted by the opioid crisis. Participants will be trained in occupations within the Healthcare and Social Assistance sector, which will enable them to find disaster-relief employment.

Councilwoman Goosby commended DOOR for its positive impact in the community and will publicize DOOR efforts in her newsletter.

IX. Adjournment

After a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Nachman, and carried by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 A.M.