



DURHAM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (DWDB) MEETING

March 28, 2019

Durham County Human Services Complex

Conference Room C, 2nd Floor

414 East Main Street

Durham, N.C. 27701

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

EXHIBIT C: MEETING MINUTES

DWDB Members Present: Paul Grantham, DWDB Chair, Marketing and Communications Chair; Steven Williams, First Vice Chair; Scott McGregor, Second Vice Chair; George Hining, Chair, Business Services Subcommittee; Wade Smedley, Chair, NCWorks Career Center; Rebecca Axford, Youth Council Subcommittee Chair; Quillie Coath, Jr.; DeDreana Freeman; Ari Medoff; Henry McKoy; Kenneth Angeli (proxy for Chip Wood); and Dr. Peter Wooldridge

DWDB Staff Present: Andre Pettigrew; Adria Graham Scott; Joyce Johnson; Zelda White; Nancy Strudwick

Guests Present: Alexis Franks, Eckerd NCWorks NextGen; Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Senior Neighborhood Coordinator, Duke University; Keijuane Hester, CEO/Owner, Favor Desserts; Akheem Hurst, NEXTGEN; and Brittney Bass, NEXTGEN

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Paul Grantham, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Updates from the Chair – Paul Grantham

The Chair, Paul Grantham, began by welcoming everyone to the Retreat. He also said that Andre Pettigrew had another meeting and, therefore, would be attending the meeting once his meeting had ended.

Paul then talked about what the DWDB hoped to accomplish at the Retreat. Before beginning with the first agenda item, Paul asked everyone in the room to share the very first job that they had. Everyone in the room shared with others the first job that they had as well as the amount of money that they earned per hour. Some attendees shared the values that they learned while working their first job.

Paul finally explained the reason he asked the question. He said that it is important that people keep in mind their first work experience because you will learn that you did not, and could not have done, it

alone. He said that DWDB members' role is to provide assistance for those who need it. The Board's true potential is how they can have better relationships with employers and businesses to determine ways to collaborate. He wanted all participants to keep this in mind during the Retreat.

Since there was not a quorum, Paul tentatively tabled the Consent Agenda Action Items, and introduced Zelda White, Senior Administrative Manager at OEWD.

Fiscal Monitoring Update – Zelda White

- Zelda White said that she would provide a brief overview since she was there on behalf of the recently hired accountant. She said that the two year allocation for PY 2018 was \$1.6 million, which has been fairly consistent. The allocations are divided into four (4) components: administrative; adult worker; dislocated; and youth. Additionally, they sometimes receive special funds. Typically, OEWD can depend on their allocated funds. OEWD is also monitored by the State annually and have not had any major findings.

Zelda then answered questions from attendees. The amount allocated per office is based on the unemployment rate not the poverty level of a city. Some attendees expressed concern about how the State comes up with formulas for determining how money is allocated in each city or region. Paul said that it was an important issue that they needed to monitor.

Retreat

Paul said that for the Retreat, they would focus on two primary topics: (1) Expanding Support for Justice-Involved Individuals; and (2) How to Secure More Paid Internships in Durham. There will be three guest speakers who will share their experiences in each of the two areas. He then introduced Maymie Webb-Bledsoe, his colleague at Duke. She works with Duke-Durham neighborhood Partnership. She is familiar with the concept on which DWDB is working. DWDB will work with Mayme to map out where they are, where they want to be and the strategies for achieving their goals.

Mayme Webb-Bledsoe explained to the attendees the method that she uses to address the two topics. She also told them that they would engage in discussions around the two issues on the agenda. Webb-Bledsoe then began the morning session, which focused on support mechanisms for those with barriers that prevented them from committing to a job. After the speaker, Keijuane Hester, CEO and Owner of Favor Desserts, shared the challenges he faced as an ex-offender, the group then engaged in active interaction and dialogue as they explored the barriers and the strategies that they needed to use to overcome the barriers.

After lunch, the group, led by Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, shifted their focus to the second topic, Expanding Paid Youth Internships in Durham. The two afternoon speakers included Akheem Hurst and Brittney Bass. Once again, after the speakers, the attendees engaged in dialogue.

Paul then said that since there was no quorum, no action items would be acted upon.

Closing Remarks

After the second session ended, Paul gave closing remarks. He thanked Mayme for a wonderful, thought-provoking and engaging workshop. Paul also said that this was the beginning of a two-year plan for DWDB. He then thanked everyone for attending and participating. Paul said that he would have the

information compiled and sent to each Board member to read and eventually discuss. At the next Board meeting, he said that subcommittees will use the information gathered at the Retreat to create an Action Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Paul Grantham asked if there was any additional business, questions or comments. With no further business, Paul Grantham adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce B. Johnson

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