



**NEW ORLEANS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

NOWDB Full Board

Draft Meeting Summary

November 9, 2022 | 11:00AM

Attendance

Members Present

Gregory Curtis
Missy Sparks
Thelma French
Claire Jecklin
Charlene Bonck
Rodney Wallis
Allyson Wilson
Claire Jecklin
Rachel Mackey
Andrew O'Brien
Jerry Repka
Dottie Belletto
Suri Duitch
Katherine Felton
Rodney Wallis
Runiaja Vicksbrown
Kellie Payne Spencer

Board Staff & Guests

Sunae Villavaso
Tammie Washington
Karmen McKinley
Sabrina Johnson
Angela Shiloh-Cryer
Sheermeka Mitchell
Verella Morris
Jason DeGruy
Lori Boissiere
Ada Kwanbunbumpen
Arlett Tolliver
Leonard Zanders
Connie Carlson

Board Members that attended the meeting virtually : Arlanda Williams, Danielle Garrett



I. Call To Order

Board Chair Gregory Curtis called the meeting to order at 11:06AM

II. Roll Call

Karmen McKinley completed a roll call of NOWDB members that were present.

III. Board Chair Updates

Please note for the record that NOWDB members or members of the public who are participating via Zoom 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.

The board chair acknowledges new board members:

Connie Carlson | replacing Michael Fernandez New Orleans Job Corps

Katherine Felton | Regional Transit Authority

Runiaja Brown | Department of Children and Family Services

Jerry Repka | Central South Carpenters | Millwrights Training Trust Fund

Kellie Payne Spencer | B.E. Smith a subsidiary of AMN Healthcare

Mr. Curtis thanks all the board members that participated with the events associated with the US Conference of Mayors.

As an update to the USDOL Monitoring review there was a finding explaining that the board lacked required eligible representatives of the Wagner-Peyser Act program, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and economic and community development. Board Member Sunae Villavaso who was representing economic and community development does not have optimum policymaking authority within the economic and community development agency, as required by WIOA. Title III and DCFS nominations were submitted to the CEO for consideration and potential appointment.

Non-compliant local WDB compositions do not ensure appropriate input, buy-in, or optimum policymaking authority from the required stakeholders. WIOA sec. 107 (b)(5) further stipulates that board members must have optimum policymaking authority within the organizations, agencies, or entities they represent.

The NOWDB has rectified the following findings and now have representation for DCFS (Runiaja Brown) and Wagner Peyser (Rachel Mackey). Sunae Villavaso will be transitioning off the board. We are awaiting the approval of Jeff Schwartz who will represent as Economic/Community Development. The NOWDB will be working on amending the bylaws as cited for correction by the USDOL.



Chair Curtis proceeded with the first action item on the agenda.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Meeting Minutes September 14, 2022

Chair Gregory Curtis called for a motion for the above action item.

- a. The motion was made by Board Member Andrew O'Brien / second by Board Member Rodney Wallis.
No Opposition

ACTION ITEM: Approval of the American Job Center Certification Matrix

Chair Gregory Curtis called for a motion for the above action item.

- a. The motion was made by Board Member Thelma French / second by Board Member Jerry Repka.
No Opposition

Co-Chair Missy Sparks: Edits on the document strike with. Tammie Washington indicated that all the MOUs are in place.

Motion: Board Member Thelma French moved to have the approval of the American Job Center Certification Matrix for the corrections of the document once finalized by the state.

- b. The motion was made by Board Member Thelma French / second by Co Chair Missy Sparks
No Opposition

ACTION ITEM: Approval of the NOWDB Grievance and Complaint Policy

Chair Gregory Curtis called for a motion for the above action item.

- a. The motion was made by Board Member Andrew O'Brien / second by Board Member Claire Jecklin.
No Opposition

ACTION ITEM: Approval of the request to have the Preschool Teacher, Teacher Assistant- and Infant Toddler / Early Learning Teacher added a local demand occupation.

Chair Gregory Curtis called for a motion for the above action item.

- a. The motion was made by Board Member Thelma French / second by Board Member Andrew O'Brien.
No Opposition



Additionally, Ms. French added comments updating the board that a mileage passed which allows 1000 additional seats for childcare which will expand the need for workforce in this capacity to 600 vacancies and 300 vacancies currently.

Board Staff Updates/ Program Oversight Report

Sunae Villavaso, Office of Workforce Development Director shared the latest numbers regarding unemployment. Currently the stats show that 4.9% of individuals in the City of New Orleans are unemployed with LWC reporting a percentage for the city of New Orleans at 5.5%. On October 27th LWC sent an additional finding that was not tied to OWD but to CNO such as the Department of Finance and the Office of Community Development.

The Directors had the reoccurring directors meeting on October 26th in Lafayette and Ms. Villavaso was able to participate in a legislative audit. Representative Fiber is looking to remove WIOA dollars from the local boards and transfer those funds to local community colleges. A study was used by the state of Vermont that does not reflect on workforce development. Ms. Villavaso had a conversation with Mayor Cantrell and before any action is taken the leaders of the local principalities would have to agree for this to take place and Ms. Villavaso stated that she feels that will not happen.

On October 25th Mayor Cantrell presented her budget to the city council. In that the budget talks about the Arbor dollars. Ms. Villavaso went back and requested 3.5 million dollars which gave us 6.5 million dollars but, in the budget, it indicates our office can receive the OWD 7 million dollars for the Arbor Funding. NOLABA green infrastructure. The Port transportation / GNOF healthcare / GNO advance manufacturing. \$900,000 will go towards the acquisition of equipment to be in the state-of-the-art facility that we are partnering with the New Orleans Career Center to train adults and youth in the building trades. An additional source the funds will be used for the Earn and Learn program which will entail partnerships with EMS, air pilots, climate core and several other partners and programming. Ms. Villavaso elaborated on the Reno, NV trip that Mr. Curtis, Ms. Sparks attended for the National Association of Workforce Development Board.

OWD will present the budget tomorrow to the City Council. (November 10, 2022)

In the process of moving to the Myrtle Banks building on November 28th and the OWD staff will be working remotely for the month of December. The talks have been stalled because we did not complete the conversation with the appropriate channels.

Ms. French suggested to the Board Chair that a motion be made to provide a letter of support to the Office of Workforce Development to the New Orleans City Council for the Arbor funds and to list each board members name.



- a. The motion was made by Board Member Thelma French / second by Board Member Katherine Felton.
No Opposition

Board Chair Curtis stated that all committees will need to meet regularly and be able to report for the full board members.

Mayor's Strike Team Partnership

Davon Barbour, the DDD's President and Chief Executive Officer reported on the new initiative which includes the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development's \$1.5 million investment from the Louisiana Workforce Commission's National Disaster Grant to create the Mayor's Strike Team. The grant will fund 50 long-term temporary employees, which is employment that exceeds 120 calendar days. The team currently consists of 38 long-term temporary employees to assist with debris removal, in partnership with the Office of Workforce Development, Department of Sanitation, DDD and the French Market.

The positions serve re-entry participants and chronically unemployed individuals, as well as residents seeking rapid reattachment to employment. Mr. Barbour spoke on public-private partnerships working together to achieve strong curb appeal to retain and attract businesses to downtown New Orleans. Mr. Barbour says there are several programs available to assist businesses in the downtown area. The DDD offers a variety of grants to downtown property and business owners to help downtown continue to be a great place to do business. Mr. Barbour focused on green infrastructure and storm water management saying this is a huge project of the company and with providing the citizens of the city of New Orleans with employment. Mr. Barbour stated that workforce development played a major role and piece with the initiatives of the DDD.

Mr. Curtis thanked Mr. Barbour for sharing and provided information that a big announcement will be taking place. There will be a partnership with Kern Studios to have a Disney Parade in the downtown area during the Christmas holiday.

Operator Report

Project Director Leonard Zanders presented the dashboard for October 2022.

Adult and Dislocated Workers

Over 20 Individuals began training in the month of October. • 74 individuals were enrolled for WIOA services in the month of October. • JOB1 Business and Career Solutions Center has a



partnership with the New Orleans Public Library to provide additional accesses to JOB1 services throughout community. We are currently rotating throughout 4 different locations on a weekly basis: • New Orleans Main Library • Algiers Regional Library • East New Orleans Regional Library • Norman Mayer Library

Youth

9 eligible youth members were enrolled into the WIOA program for the month of October and began participating in Youth Center classes and activities. • 137 work permits were issued in the month of October. • JOB1 has a total of 15 youth members that completed the Work Readiness class in October. • JOB1 has 16 Youth WEX actively placed throughout the city.

Dislocated Workers Grant

The final two DDWG-COVID Grant participants concluded their temporary positions October 8, 2022. • We continue support of the Hurricane Ida DDWG-related City of New Orleans Clean Up NOLA Strike Team. With 65 persons enrolled, participants have been assigned to the Downtown Development District, the French Market and other host sites. Additionally, twenty participants have been assigned to the Department of Sanitation, which includes two permanent hires. • There has been an additional permanent hire at Giving Hope. • JOB1 enrolled 3 participants at 311 Outreach - a new host site - as a part of the Hurricane Ida DDWG.

Business Solutions

November 9, 2022, Virtual Job Fair @ JOB1 12pm-3pm

November 12, 2022, Neighborhood Job Fair @ JOB1* 10am-1pm

November 17, 2022, In-House Job Fair 10am-1pm

Mr. Zanders acknowledged board member Dottie Bellato for donating tickets to the Bayou Classic for the youth. It will be used as an incentive at the upcoming job fairs.

NOLABA Report

Angela Shiloh Cryer presented the HBCU Student Prosperity Program report for NOLABA.

The program goal is to serve a minimum of 45 students

- IDA accounts match \$500 in individual savings with \$2000 in funds from NOLABA and United Way.
- Lunch and Learn info sessions are being scheduled at all the universities; to increase enrollment.



- The savings can be utilized to support the cost of tuition for students enrolled in HBCUs in Orleans Parish.
- Current participants enrolled is 8

Youth Demonstration Project

- * 48% of the participants received on the job training
 - 45% of those employed were retained for at least six months
 - 0% of enrollees returned to criminal legal status
 - 48% of participants met a livable wage of \$15.00 or more
- The Youth Demonstration Project (YDP) grantees provided career coaching services to Opportunity Youth (OY) in Orleans Parish through co-enrollment in the Public Workforce System (PWS). The PWS provided funding to support occupational skills training while the (2) OY providers supported participants with wrap around services to assist with barrier removal and retention in training.
- Desired Impact: Through the implementation of outcomes-based contracting model, the YDP demonstrated that results-based accountability could be embedded in organizations. The (2) providers were able to co-enroll youth in the public workforce system to expand their reach while leveraging private funds.
- Results Based Accountability (RBA) and data informed decision making were woven into the YDP. NOLABA launched a Data Community of Practice that included YEP and Operation Spark which has been a community model with using RBA and data to develop strategies, problem solve, and drive outcomes.

MEASURES	2018-2021	PROJECT TARGET
# Participants served	222	225
% Eligible Participants employed	44%	50%
% Earning > living wage	48%	38%



Mr. Curtis asked for the nominating committee to provide a report to the board. Board Chair asked Ms. French to make a motion to amend the meeting agenda.

- a. The motion was made by Board Member Thelma French / second by Board Member Claire Jecklin.
No Opposition

Sunae Villavaso presented the report for the Nominating Committee. Ms. Villavaso stated the recommendations for the nominating committee as follows:

Board Chair: Gregory Curtis
Board Co Chair: Missy Sparks
Secretary: Peter Pappas
Parliamentarian: Rodney Wallis
Parliamentarian: Andrew O'Brien

Ms. French chaired a motion to adopt the nominating committee report.

- a. The motion was made by Board Member Dottie Bellato / second by Board Member Claire Jecklin.
No Opposition

b. Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

c. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

d. Adjourn

- a. The motion was made by Board Member Rodney Wallis to adjourn / second by Board Member Claire Jecklin.
No Opposition

The meeting adjourned at 12:09pm.

