

NOWDB Full Board

JOB1 Business and Career Solutions Center

1307 Oretha Castle Haley – New Orleans, LA

December 10, 2024 | 11:00AM

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff and Guest
Melissa Sparks	Gregory Curtis	Neia Limar
Claire Jecklin	Allen Square	Tammie Washington
Floyd James	Thelma French	Sabrina Johnson
Arlanda Williams	Mikal Anderson	Karmen McKinley
Charlene Bonck	Dottie Belletto	Lori Boissiere
Jerry Repka	Jeffery Martin	Lori Boissiere
Allyson Wilson	Runiaja Vicksbrown	Chanttell Patin
Rachel Mackey	Jeffrey Schwartz	Leonard Zanders
Peter Pappas	Danielle Garrett	
Angelle Hava	Desiree Stelly Bordenave	
Rodney Wallis	Stacey Shepperson	
Andrew O'Brien, Sr.		

I. Vice Chair Updates

Chris Bardell

Vice Chairman Hopson started the meeting by sharing key outcomes from the "Where Are the Workers?" convening hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation's. Relevant takeaways were around the experiences and barriers to sustainable employment for the ALICE population. The six main findings from the study conducted are: 1. The perception of limited opportunities and nepotism 2. Disconnect between program satisfaction and employment opportunities 3. Age discrimination and wage disparities 4. Systemic inequities and barriers to program participation 5. Lack of awareness and skepticism toward workforce program 6. Skill gaps. Vice-Chair Hopson will share the full report will board. A discussion was held among the group around the topic.

II. Call to Order

Vice Chair Melissa Hopson called the meeting to order at 11:30AM

III. Roll Call

Vice Chair Hopson initiated roll call and confirmed a quorum was met. Board Manager Neia Limar completed a roll call of NOWDB members. Board Members who attended the meeting virtually: Allen Square, Stacey Shepperson, Desiree Stelly Bordenave

IV. Approval of the NOWDB Full Board Draft Meeting Minutes October 16, 2024

Motion by: Andrew O'Brien Second by: Arlanda Williams

No Opposition

The motion was approved by unanimous decision.

V. Staff Updates/Program Oversight Report

WIOA Director, Tammie Washington, provided reported that the Office of Workforce Development is working with the Procurement Office for the City of New Orleans on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the JOB1 Operator which is currently being fulfilled by Equus. This process must take place every four years, the last being conducted in 2021. The contract for Equus will end on June 30, 2025. Mrs. Washington explained the process for the RFP and the Board's role in the process. She also reported that all of the ARPA contracts have been awarded to the prospective vendors. Additionally, a super Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Summer Youth Employment Programs to seek a vendor to manage payroll and data collection. Mrs. Washington mentioned the visible additional security at the JOB1 Center and requested that Director Leonard Zanders speak more about that initiative during his report later in the meeting.

Youth Committee Report

Youth Committee Chair, Claire Jecklin, provided a brief summary of the committee's last meeting held on November 15, 2024. She reported that two new members joined the committee's last meeting, Trinissa Reff and Chanttell Patin. She mentioned that the committee's meeting dates for 2025 were planned during the meeting. She recapped that the purpose of the Youth Committee was discussed and the internship program that was currently underway in November with a record 158 participants. She shared that a discussion was had around the funding gap in public schools and the threat it provides to expanded career education, the unfunded work component to the new school accountability system, and the resignation of the superintendent. Talks were had to connect the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) with the Summer Youth Employment Program in the same manner the Job Corps does. She shared that a discussion was had about the need to recruit more businesses that would employ the 15-16-year-old population. Ms. Jecklin concluded her report.

Business Engagement Committee Report

Business Engagement Chair, Arlanda Williams, reported that a discussion around the status of the survey that was previously discussed at NOWDB meetings earlier in the year was had at the last Business Engagement Committee meeting on November 15, 2024. The pending question of which organization would execute the survey is the current status. The idea was circulated of distributing the survey in a form on a platform like Survey Monkey with the target audiences being employers, JOB1 participants, and participant families. Dr. Williams also mentioned that she offered to host a convening for businesses in high-priority industries at Delgado in the Student Life Center in an effort to learn the training needs of employers. Dates for Business Engagement Committee meetings for the year 2025 were shared with the group; 01/10, 03/07, 05/09, 07/11, 09/12, and 11/14. Dr. Williams concluded her report.

Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Chairman, Floyd James, reported that the overall expenditures through October 31, 2024 is 27.33%. A request to transfer funds from the Dislocated Workers to Adult Program was approved. He also reported that the City Council did adapt the 2025 budget and the City of New Orleans completed its audit of the Office of Workforce Development had zero findings. Mr. James concluded his report.

Operator Report

Director Zanders reported that Equus underwent an acquisition from Bright Springs Health to Advanced Personnel Management (APM). He expounded on the new security measures implemented at the JOB1 Center in an ongoing effort to keep staff and visitors safe. He highlighted the successful collaboration event with Delgado Community College and the Jefferson Parish American Jobs Center on November 7, 2024. The training/career fair event hosted over 175 people with over 100 people attending for training orientations. This further exemplifies that growing success of JOB1's training program. Director Zanders shared details about new initiatives that JOB1 plans to present in 2025. The introduction of the new Enhanced Youth Placement Track to incorporate more work readiness. Also, a new Job Placement initiative is scheduled to launch as well to help track participants who are hired and maintain data on their employment status using a self-reporting tool. He concluded his report by noting that ARPA contracts were received for the supportive services initiative which will continue the Earn & Learn Program and will introduce documentation assistance for persons who are not enrolled in WIOA and transportation assistance. ARPA will also provide additional training funds for individuals who are not WIOA enrolled. Mr. Zanders presented a video that highlighted the success of the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP).

VI. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

VII. Open Discussion

MSYEP Director, Karmen McKinley, requested continued support for the program and asked if anyone knew of persons interested in enrolling to contact her.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by: Rodney Wallis Second by: Claire Jecklin

No Opposition

The motion was approved by unanimous decision.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.