

MINUTES

Detroit Workforce Development (DWDB) Board
Disability Advisory Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Location: DESC 440 E. Congress, Suite 400, Detroit, MI 48226
Facilitating: Gwen McNeal, Chair

Council Members Present: Jannette Howard, Gwen McNeal, James Willis, Lena Barkley, Steve Mellos, Joe Evans, Richard Carson, Barbara LeRoy, and Benne Baker
Council Members Absent: Steve Eglund (excused), Byron Carter, Aurora Harris, Jayna Jamerson, Patricia Little, George Parris, Felecia Simpson, Ammiel Thomas, Kenyetta Walker, John Williamson, Angelique Kelly, Tiffany Cracchiolo, Verna Brocks, Jon Waller, Delora Williams, Anne Duncan, Daron Calhoun, and Venus Heard
Staff Present: Stephanie Nixon, Lester Gayden, Joycelyn Malcolmcarr, Kristin Bailey, and Lynn Bell

Proceedings

The Detroit Workforce Development Board's Disability Advisory Council meeting was called to order by Chair Gwen McNeal at 8:46 a.m. The draft agenda for Tuesday, March 17, 2015 and the minutes for June 24, 2014, March 18, 2014, September 17, 2013 and December 17, 2013 were reviewed and approved by the council.

Agency Updates

All in attendance provided a brief introduction as well as an overview of their organizations:

Mr. Joe Evans is the Director of Programs at the Guidance Center. The Guidance Center is a large multi-service organization serving Wayne County. It is committed to supporting the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. It also provides a wide variety of services that foster developmental growth in many areas to help people thrive at home, school, work and in the community.

Ms. Lena Barkley is the Workforce Initiatives Manager for CVS CareMarx. She explained that she works with various colleges and employment agencies to provide entry-level opportunities to job applicants interested in a career at CVS Caremark.

Ms. Barbara LeRoy is the Director of the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI), Wayne State. DDI is the State of Michigan's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and is part of a national network dedicated to the development of inclusive communities, the enhancement of the quality of life of people with disabilities, and the enrichment of the field of disability research and service.

Mr. Richard Carson is the Director of My Brother's Keeper with the Michigan Community Service Commission. My Brother's Keeper initiative aims to break down barriers to success and promote increased opportunities for youth. The program will assist with developing an innovative approach while continuing to make progress for all youth, including boys and young men of color.

Ms. Jannette Howard is the Deputy Director of Worker Services for the Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS). MRS works with eligible customers and employers to achieve quality employment outcomes and independence for individuals with disabilities. They work in partnership with individuals with disabilities to prepare for and obtain competitive employment, including exploring the possibilities of self-employment or owning a small

business. Employment services to individuals with disabilities are provided in all Michigan counties. MRS also assists employers find and retain qualified workers with disabilities.

Mr. James Willis is the Vice President of Workforce Development for the Jewish Vocational Center (JVS). Mr. Willis oversees operations, program design, outreach and development of vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with significant intellectual and development, psychiatric and other physical disabilities. This agency is leading the implementation of the Source America Pathways to Careers Initiative in Michigan.

Mr. Steve Mellos is a Senior Investigator with the Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The EEOC is responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information.

Ms. Stephanie Nixon, Director of Program and Service Innovation, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, recommended that a common database be developed where everyone can share and access information. She also noted that a DESC brochure is in the process of development and will be distributed to all council members when it is available. Ms. Nixon also shared that DESC is bringing its previously-contracted Business Services Team in-house and welcomed all council members to join the new team in their training when it takes place. She also recommended that a Business Services Committee be formed as a subcommittee under the Program Services Committee.

The group then discussed the following resources and ideas that would provide the best possible employment outcomes for their customers: coordination of services, partnership mapping, adult education, establishing criteria for employment opportunities, as well as partner training.

Good & Welfare

Congressman John Conyers, Jr. is holding a Call for Action press conference on Friday April 24, 2015. Also, any youth looking for summer employment (ages 14-24 years) should consider the Grow Detroit's Young Talent initiative.

Old/New Business

The next Disability Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2015.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Disability Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Submitted by: Lynn Bell