

**KENTUCKIANAWORKS BOARD MEETING
GREATER LOUISVILLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thursday, May 19, 2022 – 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Hybrid Meeting In person (at Greater Louisville Inc., 614 West
Main Street, Louisville) and via Zoom**

Members Present: Andy Bianco, Harold Reynolds, Jenny Lampton, John Archer, Rocki Rockingham, Ty Richardson, Patricia Williams, Mike Hesketh, Rick Purdy, Dr. Ty Handy, Kim Blanding, Tony Georges, Sarah Davasher-Wisdom, Jonathan Westbrook, Jennifer Carman, Stacey Wade, Cornelius Cotton, Sadiqa Reynolds, David Bizianes, Eric Friggle, Chris Schremser

Welcome and Greetings - *Chairman Tony Georges*

Chairman Georges welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting and thanked them for attending.

Vote Needed: Review and Approve Minutes from May 2022 Meeting - *Tony Georges*

There is a quorum and a motion to accept the May Meeting minutes was made by Ty Richardson and seconded by Rocki Rockingham. The motion passed unanimously. Michael Gritton announced that the conversations with the Student Assignment Plan are in motion, and so Dr. Pollio asked be taken off the agenda until the next meeting.

Vote Needed: Approve Consent Agenda Items Recommended by The Program Oversight Committee – *Cindy Read*

Cindy started with the fact that the Program Oversight Committee met in person for the first time in 2 years at The Spot – Young Adult Opportunity Campus at 800 W. Chestnut Street on May 13, 2022. This gave an opportunity for the members to see that facility. There was a quorum and the committee recommended board approval for the items in the packed agenda. First, the POC started with the approval of the Targeted Occupations for 2022-2023. This process is used to guide scholarship requests in the event that KentuckianaWorks receives funding for training. She stated that there were only a few changes from last year's list, including the addition of pharmacy technicians and nursing assistants due to average wage increases for those occupations and the deletion of sheet metal workers and structural iron and steel workers due to lack of projected demand.

She stated that the Committee reviewed and approved various contract renewals for Young Adult Programs with Goodwill Industries of Kentucky for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. In total, it was about \$1.8million. This included the following approved contracts for amounts not to exceed those listed:

- WIOA Youth/Metro Youth – Louisville - \$317,000 in WIOA funding, and \$330,000 in Louisville Metro Government funding
- WIOA Youth – Regional—\$320,000
- Reimage— \$430,000
- Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)- \$90,000
- Compass Rose - \$13,000 (ends July 30, 2022)

She had separated an item for further examination for the committee to approve another contract with Goodwill Industries of Kentucky contingent upon approval for new funding from American Rescue Plan in anticipation of approval by Louisville Metro Council, for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. KentuckianaWorks and Goodwill were included in the Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhood's (OSHN) proposals, hence this contract does not need to be competitively procured. Cindy mentioned that Lada Gasparac, the Senior Director of Young Adult Programs,

was doing excellent work at building relationships with the Office of Safe & Healthy Neighborhoods. Lada was able to secure funding from OSHN of \$100,000 for Mental and Behavioral Health Services. KentuckianaWorks is now officially a part of the Louisville Youth Network to provide Metro funding for young adult services.

She concluded with the last item that was discussed at the April 28, 2022 KentuckianaWorks board meeting: The closure of the Kentucky Manufacturing Career Center as of July 1, 2022. She had followed up with Jonathan Westbrook and also met with Jefferson Community & Technical College. They concluded that everything being done for the Kentucky Manufacturing Career Center, or KMCC can also be done with other existing resources. They agreed that the partnership on behalf of manufacturing could be deepened without actually funding a separate career center. The Current budget for KMCC is \$693,000, of which \$393,000 is provided through WIOA. With WIOA funding declining by 10% this year (roughly \$500,000), we recommend closing the KMCC while continuing to provide targeted services to manufacturing employers and jobseekers through other parts of our system. Ty Richardson commented that for future meetings, he'd welcome a longer conversation about strategies in each sector to have a deeper appreciation for the context of the decision that is being made. Sarah Davasher-Wisdom suggested to also include how the employer groups work with GLI networks, in that profession, to help create opportunities to collaborate. Sarah asked about the funding opportunities with the Refugee Workforce efforts that was mentioned at the previous Board meeting. Cindy stated that they are still in conversation with planning the proposals. A motion to approve was made by Sarah Davasher-Wisdom and seconded by Ty Richardson. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Role of the Guiding Team for the Academies of Louisville – Tony Georges
Chairman Georges started with the history of the partnership between KentuckianaWorks and JCPS on the Academies of Louisville. He stated that a lot of work needed to be done within the school system and individual high schools when we started this work back in 2016. the buildings. Due to this work, we created the Guiding Team which was community-based and included JCPS, employers, GLI, and etc. to help provide feedback and guidance to help Dr. Marty Pollio. Behind this group was another smaller group that was chaired by our former Board Chair, Tom Quick, that met more frequently to share more direction and detailed discussions to help support JCPS. With Michael Gritton's leadership coming out of COVID, Dr. Pollio confirmed last Board meeting that attendance is an issue, absenteeism is an issue, the student assignment plan is an issue, targeting sectors is an issue, and labor market is an issue. In order to rejuvenate the Academies, KentuckianaWorks needs to rebuild that structure of the Guiding Team and especially the smaller group to help support Dr. Pollio when he needs to adjust to get success. Mr. Georges stated that KW is actively rebuilding this group to help support the Academies this coming August. He stated that today's discussion is mainly to bring awareness of the plan in action, and to invite other Board members to participate

Mike Hesketh commented that it seemed the Academies lost momentum due to the pandemic. Mr. Georges responded that when you put the business community into the schools, it doesn't work if the kids are not in the schools. This is due to many reasons, not just COVID. Dr. Pollio included various reasons in his presentation at the previous Board meeting. Sadiqa Reynolds suggested formulating a list of lessons learned as we start to rebuild these efforts. Examples might include: What people have been involved, what was executed properly, what are the places we see that have gaps, and where did we fall short. It will be beneficial to see this data on paper because it will tie-into the success of the Student Assignment Plan. To see this history of these Academies would help everyone start on the same base line.

Update and Request for Help: Mayor's Budget Request for \$600,000 in New Funding to Sustain the KentuckianaWorks College Access Center's (KCAC's) Work with Adults – Dr. Darrius Brooks

Dr. Darrius Brooks, Executive Director of the College Access Center, started with thanking the Board for their time and introduced himself. KCAC has been running two federally funded programs for the last 15+ years. In July of 2021, the Educational Opportunity Center received notice that the grant funding KCAC had been receiving for 44 years would not be renewed. An application for renewal of this grant for the next 5 years was sent in March of 2021 and was denied. Our score was 102 points out of 106 points and unfortunately, we needed 104 to be able to automatically appeal that decision.

The benefits of the KCAC is that it helps about 2500 adult learners a year with career advising, enrollment applications, financial aid, etc. This helps adults to transition back to college to earn degrees and become gainful employees. The data on our impact is strong: 100% applied to attend college, 80% enrolled, and within a 5-year span about 75% graduated with an Associate's Degree or higher. The progress and success are there, and so Michael Gritton and Dr. Darrius Brooks are pleased that Mayor Fischer has requested \$600,000 in his FY23 Budget to keep these services available in the community. Dr. Brooks asked the Board to be aware that this recommendation is under consideration by the Metro Council, and to advocate for it strongly.

Sarah Davasher-Wisdom asked when the federal grant will come up for renewal. Michael Gritton answered that the grant is renewed every 5 years. He also stated that there were other College Access Centers that have been federally funded for many years and lost the funding. Dr. Brooks mentioned Notre Dame, Penn State as among others who had their grant renewals turned down. Ms. Davasher-Wisdom suggested that it will help in advocacy to the Metro Council if we can find out how others who are losing the federal funds are trying to sustain the work after the grant runs out. Andy Bianco asked if the \$600,000 is per year or for the 5-year span. Michael answered with \$600,000 per year because it pays for 5 counselors and a few support staff members. Dr. Ty Handy affirmed the strong partnership between KCAC and JCTC, and complimented the program for its strong work.

Update and Request for Help: SummerWorks 2022 – Chris Locke

Chris started his presentation with an update on SummerWorks. Going into 2022, SummerWorks is beginning its 12th year of operation, serving summer jobs to youth and young adults ages 16 to 21 years. It is funded by Louisville Metro with \$1million and \$600,000 from private donors, corporations and foundations. SummerWorks' operating partner is YouthBuild Louisville with JCPD Academies, Greater Louisville Inc., and Louisville Metro as Strategic Partners. This year the SummerWorks official first day of work is June 20, 2022 and it runs 6 weeks.

In 2021, SummerWorks Registrants equaled 1177, and this year, so far, there are 1128 Registrants. Participants who have submitted applications to employers are 1052 individuals (841 Private & 211 Sponsored). 171 Employers have posted jobs so far with 310 sponsored positions, and those numbers will continue to grow. Over the life of the program, 7,430 Direct Placements, and 36,471 Indirect Placements at SummerWorks Champion employers. The following companies are already participating:

- G.E Appliances (50)
- Humana (10)
- Jefferson County Public Schools (100)

- Norton Healthcare (25)
- Norton Hospital (30)
- United Parcel Services (500)

In total, there are 715 job postings on the KentuckianaEARNNS portal from companies represented here on the KentuckianaWorks Board.

Chris presented several ways for the Board to support SummerWorks. He asked them to join other employers represented on the Board and post their open opportunities on the KentuckianaEARNNS portal. He stated that the Board members could serve as an ambassador for the program and share the information within their networks. If the opportunity presents itself, take a moment to thank any and all Metro Council members for their support of SummerWorks past and present. Lastly, the Board can consider how their company or organization can build the future workforce and benefit from hiring the young talent in our community. Chris thanked the Board for their support and opened the floor to comments.

Update and Request for Help: Work with Ex-Offenders and Pending Metro Council Recommendation for \$2.4 Million over the next 3 Years – Angella Wilson

Angella introduced herself and thanked the Board for their time. She noted that the following are resources to serve ex-offenders within the region:

- Kentucky Career Centers
- The Spot – Reimage Program
- Employer Services – Kentucky Fair Chance Bond
- Second Chance hiring events
- Dare to Care (D2C) Project

She went into more detail on the Dare to Care Project. KentuckianaWorks has an on-site work crew at local D2C Food Bank in which ex-offenders can participate, especially those who have been recently released from incarceration. It provides essential food distribution and sanitization services. This project is funded by the National Dislocated Workers Grant (NDWG), and this particular grant provides COVID-19 relief assistance. The service provider for D2C is the Center for Employment Opportunities or CEO. CEO is a non-profit organization that operates in thirty different cities. They provide job readiness, transitional employment, job coaching, job placement, and retention services. Dr. Gary from the Center of Employment added the website in the chat via Zoom. Angella continued with the progress of D2C. This project was started on July 6, 2020. KentuckianaWorks received a total of \$845,000 since the program’s inception, however, Angella stated that the program is sunsetting because the funds have come to an end. Since the start of this program, 79 people have been hired on the transitional crews at D2C resulting in 38 people being hired into permanent jobs with an average wage of \$14.22 per hour. Of the 79 participants:

- 69 are males
- 10 are females
- 51 are Caucasian
- 18 are African American
- 1 Asian American
- 9 are undisclosed

Angella stated that we want to continue to expand this program, and are patiently waiting for the approval of the Comprehensive Re-entry Employment Services (CRES) Grant Proposal we submitted as part of our response to the city’s RFP regarding American Rescue Plan funds. KentuckianaWorks is asking for \$2.4 million over 3 program years which will allow for a goal of 400 people placed in transitional crews, and minimally 200 people to be placed into permanent

jobs. She also stated that KentuckianaWorks wants to expand job sites for work crews beyond just having people work at Dare to Care. Michael Gritton stated that out of the five proposals for the American Rescue Plan funding that we submitted, and dozens more from other local non-profits, this particular grant of \$2.4 million is the only one the Metro Council has recommended for funding so far.

Chairman Georges thanked GLI for allowing the Board to use the conference room. However, he wanted to open the floor for suggestions on different locations to branch out and see the facilities that are used to help the community. Ms. Davasher-Wisdom suggested to update the calendar well in advance for in-person meetings to give everyone time to plan for traveling.

Chairman Georges then adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2022.

Staff:

Alicia Pardo
Michael Gritton
Barbara Ferrell
Stacy Roderick
Patrick Garvey
Katie Elliott
Aleece Smith
Angella Wilson
Cindy Read
Darius Brooks
Brian Luerman
Bailey Preston
Jaime Disney
Mary Rosenthal
Regina Phillips
Sarah Ehresman
Lada Garsparac
Lori Hiser
Mike Karman
Chris Locke

Contractors/Guests

Sara Dodeci
Bria Henson
Dr. Gary Damon Jr.
Lisa Thompson
Christine Tarquinio