

**Program Oversight Committee Meeting**  
**September 24, 2021**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:** Christine Tarquinio, Lisa Thompson (proxy for Sadiqa Reynolds), Mike Hesketh, Jenny Lampton, Patricia Williams, Valorie Hughes

**Staff:** Aleece Smith, Angella Wilson, Bailey Preston, Brian Luerman, Chris Locke, Lada Gasparac, Mary Rosenthal, Patrick Garvey, Michael Gritton, Jaime Disney, Joi McAtee, Katie Elliott, Latricia Swope

**Contractors/Guests:** Andrew Pierre, Charlotte Kerns, Chris White, Eric Hicks, Kimberly Boyd-Lane, Monica Collins, Renee Walters, Sara Dodeci, Zakiyyah Raymore, Savvy Shabazz, Steve James, Rena Sharpe

**Welcome and Introductions – *Mike Hesketh & Angella Wilson***

Chairman Hesketh welcomed everyone. Angella then introduced the new Louisville Site Director at Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO), Savvy Shabazz to the group. Savvy was previously a Case Manager for the ReImage program run through the KYCC.

**Review & Approve Minutes from August 20, 2021 Meeting – *Mike Hesketh***

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Williams. The motion passed without opposition. Ms. Lampton abstained since she was not at the meeting.

**Staff Recommendation: Approval to purchase Launchpad licenses – *Katie Elliot***

Last year, KentuckianaWorks entered into a contract with Carahsoft Technology Corp through a National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA) in order to purchase the services of Launchpad to develop a case management system for KentuckianaWorks programs that were not in KEE Suite. (KEE Suite is the state system of record and is limited to programs that are funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act [WIOA]). Hence another system is needed for projects funded through other grants. Programs that are in Launchpad include: Code Kentucky, Code Louisville, Tech Louisville, Reimage, Compass Rose and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP).

The development work on Launchpad is completed, but now we need to renew the annual licenses for the Launchpad users. For administrative efficiency, we would like to renew the licenses directly with Launchpad rather than work through a third party (Carahsoft). Launchpad is the sole provider of the licenses for their system which is why we would not competitively procure this product.

Due to new purchasing guidelines for larger purchases that are not bid out, Louisville Metro Government requires that the KentuckianaWorks Board approve such purchases. We are asking approval to purchase 29 licenses for the Launchpad case management system for a total cost of \$58,000.

Chairman Hesketh asked if there were any questions for Katie. There were none. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Tarquinio. The motion passed without opposition.

**Presentation: SummerWorks – Chris Locke**

Chris Locke reminded the Committee at the last meeting they approved the extension of the contract to YouthBuild Louisville for operating the SummerWorks Program. YouthBuild has held the contract for the last 5 years. Mr. Locke turned the floor over to Lynn Rippy for a SummerWorks presentation.

The SummerWorks presentation titled 'Investment in Louisville's Future' covered the vision and mission of YouthBuild Louisville which is right in line with the mission of SummerWorks. The overall mission is to develop Louisville's young adult talent by preparing them for and connecting them to quality summer jobs at local companies and non-profit organizations. The presentation included SummerWorks participation data from 2017 - 2021. Over the past 5 years YouthBuild has met its young adult summer employment goals set by KentuckianaWorks. Throughout the pandemic several cities shut down and did not operate their summer programs. KentuckianaWorks along with YouthBuild decided to push through and were able to remain successful with placements.

One of the primary objectives of the SummerWorks program has been to recruit individuals from areas of the city with high unemployment rates and fewer job opportunities. The SummerWorks program has been shown to be a valuable addition to young adult employment services in the city. It is associated with long-term increases in educational attainment and employment for its participants. Overall, the program serves as a beneficial tool for helping young people in Louisville learn the skills needed to thrive in today's workplace. Over the 5 years, 25,000 young adults have gone to work through this program.

**Labor Market Presentation: Racial Equity Dashboard – Katie Elliot**

The overarching focus of the KentuckianaWorks Strategic Plan is to view all of our programmatic efforts through the lens of Racial Equity. The Racial Equity Dashboard is our attempt to visualize the impact of programmatic efforts by demographic characteristics in an interactive manner.

The first iteration was presented at the January 2021 board meeting. The second iteration of the Racial Equity Dashboard builds on the foundation of the initial presentation with the addition of information regarding job placements and average wage by demographic characteristics including zip code. The dashboard features information on the number of African-American participants placed into employment as well as the average wage for all programs where information is available. This information provides a visual representation of the job placement outcomes by race to aid in decision-making regarding resource allocation. Some of our programs do not have data available at this time due to their program year running October 1 through September 30. As data becomes available for these programs, it will be added to the dashboard. The link to the KentuckianaWorks Program Dashboard, Program Year 2020-2021 was included in the meeting packet and can be sent out for your review.

**Executive Director's Report: - Michael Gritton**

Michael reminded the group we continue to have discussion with the Mayor's office about the American Rescue Plan money. We haven't been told how much they are planning to put into Workforce Development or when that will happen so we are trying to stay ready for that. We have been convening a couple of meetings. Jim Lancaster from Lantech is playing a leadership role. Mr. Lancaster has gathered some other leaders in the community who were trying to make suggestions to the city about how they may be able to make the biggest difference with that money. They are trying to get the city to spend \$100 million of that money in Workforce Development with a particular goal of helping at least 10,000 African Americans get jobs that pay them \$30,000 a year. There were 250,000 families in the Louisville area who made less than \$30,000 2 years ago and half of all African American families make less than that. The Mayor expressed concerns about targeting \$30,000 a year and rightfully so. But the data suggest that getting so many people to that level in companies where they can grow and move up would potentially be a transformational change for those families.

You will see watching the news or paying attention to the headlines, that youth violence is on everyone's mind. There is something really important and bad happening in Louisville that is a multi-layered challenge. Community leaders in the most affected areas have continued to ask for more resources and opportunities for young adults, instead of concentrating on over-policing the community. As KentuckianaWorks is planning to relocate and rebrand the KYCC we are telling the Mayor if we were to receive more money we can create more opportunities for young adults.

Lastly, we have to pass along some bad news. KentuckianaWorks has been running the KentuckianaWorks College Access Center (KCAC) since 2005, which is funded by 2 Department of Education grants. The larger grant, EOC, provides us almost \$600,000 a year to serve 2,500 adults who are mostly low income, first time college-goers. In the same way we require contractors to bid every 5 years, we also have to apply every 5 years to the Department of Education to receive those grant funds. Louisville has been getting the EOC grant since 1977. Unfortunately, we competed in this last grant round and did not receive a score to get that grant renewed. They score on a 100-point scale and you can qualify to 6 prior performance points for a possible 106-point score. Our grant was scored at 102 but due to a shortage in funds the only grants that got funded had to have a score of 104.5 or better. Our score did not put us in the automatic appeals category and the national experts we have consulted have told us if we aren't in the automatic appeals category there is no chance that political leverage will get us into the funded pile. The current grant is funded through September of next year. We have given the Mayor and Dr. Handy a heads up about it because it would be a big loss to the community to lose those services. We don't need this Committee or the Board to do anything yet but wanted to make you aware of the issue. We will be looking into other TRIO grants that we may be able to apply for that will be up in the next year that may allow us to stay in that same kind of work. We will keep you up-to-date about it. Michael concluded his Executive Director's report.

**Reports discussion:**

With a few minutes remaining in the meeting Chairman Hesketh took a few moments to go over the program reports. The Equus report shows a total job placement of 54 YTD which is 8% of the goal of 700. Chairman Hesketh expressed concerns that the goal will likely be missed by a mile at this rate. Charlotte Kerns told the group the Career Centers are seeing very low foot traffic in terms of walk-ins, however; they have increased their events at the Career Centers and their outreach to all the TDS teams across the region. Currently they are hosting weekly events with at least 2 employers at KMCC and bi-weekly at NIA. Charlotte assured the Committee they are being innovative and constantly looking for ways to be more visible in the community. Chairman Hesketh thanked the Equus staff, as its clear there are challenges that they are working to concur on a daily basis.

Kudos to the KentuckianaWorks One-Stop Operator and KentuckianaBuilds. In the midst of all the challenges, planned events are happening and numbers are being achieved.

Tech Louisville has struggled to keep participants engaged on line. Michael Gritton stated we are hoping to be able to continue the in-person classes which has proven to make a big difference in participation and we are seeing the retention rate increase.

Patrick shared a glimpse of the new poster with the rebranding of the KYCC as The Spot. We are excited for the move to a new location to help be more accessible to young adults.

Chairman Hesketh concluded the meeting by referencing the 5 Stages of Grief; denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance and encouraged everyone to reach out to someone if they are having difficulties with any of those emotions.

With there being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.