



## **Richmond Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2021**

Chairperson Xavier Abrams called the Richmond Workforce Development Board meeting (RWDB) to order on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 11:32 am.

### **Roundtable introductions**

September 16, 2021, meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no modifications. Board member Steve Bell made a motion for approval seconded by Mike Parker; all members present agreed, and neither oppositions nor abstentions were presented. Motion carries to approve minutes.

Three (3) new prospective members were introduced: DC Dorham-Kelly, Rubicon Programs; Alexandra McGee, MCE Community Choice Energy; Fernando Campos, Business Representative, Laborers' Union Local 324.

### **SOS! Richmond (Safe Organized Spaces Richmond)**

Daniel Barth, Director

Brief introduction by Mr. Nantell.

- SOS is new, has been around for two (2) years. Before joining SOS, Mr. Barth worked for an organization in Alameda County in the 80s, running shelters and building transitional houses and shelters.
- He indicated that fortunately, during COVID, we were blessed to get folks out of encampments and into housing funded by "Room Key." A housing first resource.
- The best organizing tool is a job. It's quite a change for someone to come living on the creek and transitioning into a job. SOS is a team of 22 individuals; some part-time, and three or four are full-time. They are there to support the neighborhoods as neighborhood stewards, impacting the bottom line.
- Soon, there will be an electronic reporting system of trash left on the streets. If there are RVs or some serious criminal activity, the team can't go in there, that is where RPD comes in, but we can create an alliance, a trusting relationship with the folks living there. Can we be the agents of co-existence? Mr. Barth believes they can.
- We can have neighborhood anchors, like Chevron, to get a little more money from Chevron and get more boots on the ground in the Chevron neighborhood to better steward that area. Corner by corner, we can start to impact neighborhood quality of life; our unsheltered folks have the neighborhood knowledge, cultural competency, and peer relationships, so they have something that no one else has.
- Currently working with Caltrans to create a micro village in the Santa Fe neighborhood. A potential win-win will take care of the blight in the area and provide a solution for emergency housing.
- Emergency housing is an emerging need that is much more imperative than we provide.
- There is a need to provide local amenities like showers, trash sanitation, and toilets to start with.
- We need to have mobile engagement; we need to create a stable, secure, and safe enough; this is emergency housing.



## Richmond Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2021

- Get our neighbors to see that solutions in our neighborhoods work as emergency housing solutions.
- Get RichmondBUILD; they can help train to build sleeping cabins in a secure environment.

Board Chairperson thanked Mr. Barth for his presentation.

Q. Board Member Loretta Bisio asked if there was a designated area for the unsheltered.

A. Mr. Barth said there are two unsupported large RV encampments, one at North Castro at Hensley and another by Costco on Central Ave. These are eyesores for our neighbors; these are unhealthy, unsafe because it is rife with violence, addiction. The City and SOS have collaborated to create an emergency ordinance that allows RVs to park in church and other faith organizations parking lots, small enough to have it in our neighborhood right there on our corner and tolerate it enough. Trying to get faith organization/congregation to say yes is a whole bag of beans, but we are collecting beans. We will get there, and the short answer is. No, there is no place. If we want to create a permanent location, we will have to contend with the market forces that say we don't do those anymore, just like we don't build shelter anymore, frankly. We don't allow RVs older than 1990, and no one will buy an RV newer than 1990 on this income bracket. We have a problem that we can fix. We can change it at the State level to re-enact some of the safety nets that we had during the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW; we had it most of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we don't know. We went to this model of we need housing, and it priced people out.

Comment from Board Member, Uche Uwahemu, thanked Mr. Barth. He knows Mr. Barth and knows he come from a good place. Mr. Uwahemu has done a tour of Castro Avenue and Central Avenue; one of the complaints he received was about security and some people's concerns, especially along Castro Avenue. Some folks are there carrying guns; can you share some light on that. Replying to Ms. Bisio, we have two locations on Central Ave and Castro Avenue.

Response from Mr. Barth: Sharing light is precisely the figurative need. When you are in the darkness of being hidden, if you are on the train tracks, you are hidden; if you are on the freeway underpass, you're hidden. The same goes for when you are Castro and Hensley, we need to shed light and the light of support, and it's not easy. You go in there, and folks say, leave us alone, this is the last refuge, this is all we have.

### **Director's Report**

Jim Nantell, Interim Director, City of Richmond, Employment and Training

Mr. Nantell expressed how amazed he is with the people in this division and their commitment to connect people in the community with training opportunities and get them jobs that elevate their financial status. Thanked the Board for taking a stand back in June and saying we can't wait any longer for a new Division Head to come and lead this Division. Staff went to the City Manager, and she took the risk and agreed to go ahead and recruit even though the new classification had not gone to the council. Mr. Nantell thanked Mr. Richard Johnson for spending an entire day interviewing top candidates. He asked



## **Richmond Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2021**

that this board contact City Council and encourage them to approve the hiring of this Deputy Director position because we are ready to make a deal with top candidates. Hopefully, at the next meeting, we can introduce you to a new, extremely passionate, and excited professional that would like to join the organization and lead us.

### **2021-2022 Funding/Pending Opportunities**

Potential Funding Opportunities for RichmondWORKS AJCC and RichmondBUILD Academy

- Equity and Special Populations Program Grant Funding FY2022 through 12-2023
  - Proposal Amount: \$650,000
  - Population to be served: Youth, Homeless & Housing Insecure; Justice-Involved
  - Employment & Training Services for 130 Individuals
- Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Cooperative Agreements (EPA Grant)
  - Proposal Amount: \$200,000
  - Population to be served: RichmondBUILD Participants
  - Pre-Apprenticeship Training for 60 Individuals
- November 12, 2021, Workforce Accelerator 10 Grant Application to be released by the California Workforce Development Board and EDD.
  - Accelerator grants are funded projects that design, develop, and implement projects that accelerate employment and re-employment strategies for California job seekers.

Board Chair Xavier Abrams thanked Mr. Nantell for his candor and E&T Management for keeping engaged and encouraged.

### **RichmondBUILD/YouthBUILD Academy**

Fred Lucero, Program Manager

- They are accepting applications for the YouthBUILD Program, January cohort. We need 60 enrollments; we have 41 enrollments as of today. Please send anyone interested in learning in a safe environment to RichmondBUILD (RB).
- With the infrastructure bill that will be signed soon, he would like to sit down with labor to discuss options coming our way and put our local workforce to work.
- Fred sent a special “shout out” to members of the board who are with the carpenters, laborers, and ironworker’s unions; over the last year, they have accepted RB graduates into their unions and changed lives. Thank you to labor, and a huge thank you to Marin Clean Energy (MCE). We have started an energy efficiency program at RichmondBUILD. We had several graduates go to work in the energy efficiency industry. Thank you for stepping up and ensuring the graduates have somewhere to go after graduation.

### **RichmondWORKS America’s Job Center of California<sup>sm</sup> (AJCC)**

Charita Patterson, Interim Project Coordinator

- Thanked Mr. Nantell for being a great help to us.
- AJCC is still open, services available for walk-ins and appointments.



## Richmond Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2021

- AJCC staff are available to help with unemployment, disability, and paid family leave paperwork.
- Career Counselors are very active with our business services and one-on-one career counseling provided here Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of every week.
- RichmondWORKS was the only AJCC open within a 50-mile radius during the pandemic; where typing tests are still available, free of charge.
- English Language Learner Grant (ELL) is one of our most prominent grants. The grant term is April 2021 through March 2023. Monica Castrillo and her team have been very instrumental in getting the flyers and notices out. Providing training services for English Language Learners, to Richmond and West Contra Costa County residents. Participants must have your right-to-work, and males 18-25 must be registered for selective service. There are many training programs available for the ELL grant participants.
- Prison to Employment Initiatives – Regional grant program for EastBay Works administered by Alameda County Workforce Board. The grant provides workforce services including training for justice-involved and formerly incarcerated individuals.
- CAREER National Dislocated Worker Grant – Assist dislocated workers with career services including credential attainment and on-the-job training for participants in high demand sector training.
  - Goals:
    - 100 Dislocated Worker in WCC
      - \$8,932 per participant
      - 20 On-the-Job Training
      - 80 Industry Training
  - Impacts:
    - Skills Gain
    - Sustainable wage employ
    - Employability through training

Bouakhay Phongboupha, Interim Program Manager

- Discussed the Comprehensive and Accessible Reemployment Through Equitable Employment Recovery (CAREER) National Dislocated Worker Grant – staff are excited regarding this grant because it will get a lot of the dislocated workers back to work, by increasing their skill set. The grant will help participants upgrade their skills and receive livable wages. Please help us promote this grant.
- Equity and Special Populations (ESP) Grant - This year, we received an increase to serve 75 students with disabilities with the Dept. of Rehabilitation in Richmond. We are being encouraged to get more students enrolled.

Cinthia Hernandez, Assistant to Bouakhay Phongboupha

- Dislocated Worker Innovation Challenge Grant
  - Goal:
    - Serve 50 Youths



## Richmond Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2021

- Eligibility:
  - 18-24 years of age
  - Receiving or exhausted unemployment benefits
  - Richmond and West County Residents
- Partnership:
  - RichmondBUILD
  - Bitwise Industries
  - Kaiser School of Allied Health
  - Spaulding Marine Center
  - West Contra Costa Adult School
- Reimagine Richmond Work Experience Program

This is from the General Funds from the City of Richmond, and it will provide

  - Work Experience Opportunities
  - Serve up to 500 Richmond Youth ages 16-24
    - 16-17 up to 100 hours of Work Experience (WEX)
    - 18-24 up to 300 hours of WEX
  - Eligibility:
    - Must be ages 16-24
    - Richmond Resident
- YouthWORKS Work Experience Updates
  - 436 Applications
  - 293 Working

**No Announcements were made.**

### **Comments**

Board Member, Mike Parker, urged the Board Members to let the City Council know what is needed to enhance our effectiveness in recruiting and training community members for better jobs.

Meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm

### **Next RWIB Meeting**

Thursday, January 13, 2022

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Zoom



## **Richmond Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2021**

### **Attendees:**

Della Randolph, Karen Norwood, Nancy Seto, Xavier Abrams, Giovanni Flores, Hakim Johnson, Jeffrey Carr, Michael Parker, Richard Johnson, Steve Bell, Uche Uwahemu, DC Carole Dorham-Kelly, Fernando Campos, Alexandra McGee, Anthony Crouch, Loretta Bisio, Fred Lucero, Charita Patterson, Cinthia Hernandez, Bouakhay Phongboupha, Jim Nantell, Daniel Berth, Rick Drury Daniel Barth, Monica Castrillo, Maria Torres.