



Richmond Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes – July 8, 2021

Vice-Chairperson Xavier Abrams called the Richmond Workforce Development Board meeting (RWDB) to order on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 11:30am.

Roundtable introductions

Meeting minutes for April 15, 2021, were reviewed and approved with no modifications. A motion for approval was made by Board member Steve Bell seconded by board member Jason Lindsey; all members present were in agreement, neither oppositions nor abstentions were presented.

Director's Report

Jim Nantell, Project Manager III, City of Richmond, Employment and Training

- 18 Months ago, the city reorganized and now Employment and Training is a Division of Community Services under Deputy City Manager LaShonda White recently appointed as the Interim Department Head for Community Services: Recreation, Transportation, Library and Employment and Training Divisions. Mr. Nantell is now the Interim Division Department Head as Program Manager III for the Employment and Training.
- Important to remind ourselves of the mission of this organization. Our mission is to serve the needs of the job seekers and the employers in the city of Richmond; to provide a continuum of education and training opportunities which therefor provides both adults and youth the opportunity to achieve their career goals. In Richmond we are proud to be one of only five cities in the state of California that has their own dedicated workforce development team.
- Newspaper article in Richmond Progressive Alliance, thank Mr. Parker for sharing the article. May have led some to believe that the city manager is looking to outsource, merge or contract out Employment & Training division. This is not the city managers intention. "We are here to stay". Bouakhay Phongboupha is now appointed as the Interim Program Manager, Charita Patterson is stepping forward to coordinate the administration of this division. The current leadership team is stepping forward and collaborative leading this division.
- Employment and Training currently awarded about \$4.5 Million dollars in hand. Also working and applying for another \$1.3 Million dollars in new funding.

Adult Funding

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker	\$672,000
English Language Learner	\$275,000
Employment Recovery Dislocated Worker	\$250,000
Prison to Employment Program	\$500,000

Youth Funding

WIOA Youth	\$300,000
Dislocated Youth Worker Innovation Challenge	\$250,000
K-12 Strong Workforce Program	\$ 47,500



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Workforce Development Board Budget, Program Year 2021-22

Jim Nantell, Project Manager III, City of Richmond, Employment and Training

Revenue:

Federal Grant Revenue	\$2,939,146
State Grant Revenue	\$1,312,500
Other Grant Revenue	\$2,224,421
Other Revenue	\$ 321,274
Charges for Services	<u>\$ 24,000</u>
Subtotal – Outside Revenue	\$6,821,341
General Fund:	
Contract Compliance (on behalf of the City)	\$ 350,000
Internal Service Cost Subsidy	\$ 535,605
Summer Youth Subsidy	\$ 325,000
RichmondBUILD Lease Subsidy	\$ 135,100
Grant Writing Subsidy	<u>\$ 100,000</u>
Subtotal – General Fund	<u>\$1,445,705</u>
Subtotal – Adopted Budget 6/29/21	\$8,267,046
Reimagining Summer Youth Employment	<u>\$1,989,000</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$10,256.046</u>

- 2021 Summer Youth Employment (SYEP)
 - Summer Training Employment Program (STEP) \$ 375,000
 - General Fund - Public Safety Reimagining Task Force \$1,989,000
- 2021-2022 Potential Funding Opportunities for RichmondWORKS Career Services
 - U.S. Small Business Administration \$100,000
 - U.S. Employment & Training Admin. \$850,000
- 2021-2022 Potential Funding Opportunities for Youth Programs
 - From the Department of Children and Youth
 - Two proposals totaling \$400,000

RichmondBUILD's Report

Fred Lucero, Program Manager

RichmondBUILD continues to meet their benchmarks as set forth in the grants. We are also continuing to work with Carpenters, Laborers, Plumbers & Steamfitters, Iron Workers, and Heat & Frost for apprenticeship opportunities as well as with companies from the private sector, such as Overaa Construction, IQ Environmental, Factory OS and other companies for hiring opportunities. YouthBUILD, recently had the first graduation for our fist cohort, 8 graduated.



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RichmondBUILD will be having a graduation on 7/16/21 for cohort 45. Making headways into iron workers, laborers, carpenters. Preparing to take Heat and Frost exam. What we do best is train people and we believe that nothing stops a bullet like a career. We want to continue to live by that mantra. We want to make sure we are properly positioned to get more funding. The governor is proposing \$300 million dollars to clean up brownfield sites to expand with safe, affordable housing. \$4 million of it allocated to Workforce Development from the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC). We are working with our grant writer and the leadership team in our department to make sure that we are positioned to receive a lot of this money.

Board member Uche Uwahemu congratulated Mr. Lucero on a job well done, he also raised a question regarding job placement during the pandemic. Mr. Lucero replied that last year under SB-1 grant 15 were enrolled and 4 were put into the Carpenter's Union and 1 into the Laborers. It is starting to pick up now. Board member Uche Uwahemu also recommended Mr. Lucero contact his office to request letters of support to help with the grant writing.

Potential Funding Opportunities:

- EPA – re-applied
- YouthBUILD – re-applied
- Y&H Soda Foundation – re-applied and received \$25,000
- Richmond fund for Children and Youth Grant (applied)
- National Dislocated Grant (will apply)
- Infrastructure Bill – intend to apply

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Bouakhay Phongboupha – Interim Program Manager

2021 SYEP Updates:

Year-round program is the main focus for the funds reallocated from the Police Department budget to community services through the reimagining task force:

- Goal is to serve up to 500 Youth ages 16-24 during the Year-Round Program
 - 16-17 yrs. old - 100 hours
 - 18-24 yrs. Old – 300 hours
- Applications received for the SYEP is 340
- First Cohort to start on June 21, 2021, with 158 Participants
- Second Cohort to Start July 26, 2021
- STEPS will serve 75 In-School-Youth with Disabilities

2020 SYEP Updates:

- Received 325 Applications
- 175 Participants
- STEPS served a total of 50 ISY
- Total hours worked: 21,000



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- Had 8 Work Readiness Workshops
- Total of 59 Worksites

YouthWORKS received a donation of 600 fabric masks from Auntie Sewing Squad for SYEP Participants. Thank you!

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program Report

Bouakhay Phongboupha – Interim Program Manager

America's Jobs Center of California (AJCC) client services were provided throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Job Placement, job training, essential skills training, and employer services
- Provided assistance with Employment Development Department (EDD) benefits applications for AJCC Clients via telephone and in-person
- AJCC Resource Room Services were provided by appointment
- Shared information for job announcements; virtual recruitment, hiring events and virtual rapid-response events for WARN notice layoffs with the City of Richmond.

AJCC Curbside & In-House Services were provided to over 6500 individuals:

- EDD Service documents, information in English and Spanish
- AJCC Resource Packets (COVID-19 info; Job Listing, Local Community Resources)
- WIOA Eligibility Intake Appointments
- 1-on-1 Career Counseling
- Resource Room Computer Usage
- Typing Test

AJCC Services Provided Via Telephone:

- EDD Unemployment Benefits Questions
- Various Job Search Assistance Questions

The RichmondWORKS AJCC was closed due to a spike in the pandemic, December 2020 to January 2021.

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs Update:

- Provided career services from various grant programs for 252 clients
- 65 people were put back to work or tried to but some too afraid to go back to work
- 57 received training and 26 individuals completed training
- 11 received training in their field
- 205 clients received supportive services



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Youth Program Updates:

- 24 Intensive Career Services – Out of School Youth:
 - Placed 8 in jobs
 - 5 sent to the industry training of their choice. 2 out of 5 that completed their training, also received their certification
 - Last year 175 were served with work experience through the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Board Member Michael Parker requested the board make a motion concerning the shortage of staff and increase in funding for youth employment program.

The motion reads: “The board inform the City staff and Council that we are concerned that hiring for the organization of Employment & Training department is not going quickly enough to carry out the new and enlarge responsibilities for the youth employment program.” Motioned by board member Michael Parker and seconded by board member Uche Uwahemu. The motion carries.

Announcements

Michael Parker asked to have another board meeting in August instead of September due to the need to address the hiring issues; the request was denied. Charita Patterson asked for approval to move the September 9th meeting to September 16th, 2021, because September 9th is a city holiday. The board approved moving the next board meeting to September 16, 2021.

Public Comment

Board member La’Tanya Dandie commented that she is working with Mr. Lucero, and YouthWORKS Program to cut grass for the elderly and disable vets. On August 22nd at the Homeless Task Force, she will be introducing a program for homeless unaccompanied youth and will be requesting funding for this program so that the youth in the community are not sent over to Oakland or Alameda to obtain services.

Next RWIB Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2021

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

Zoom

Attendees:

Allison H., Bouakhay Phongboupha, Carianne Huss, Charita Patterson, Chuck Leonard, Cinthia Hernandez, DC Dorham-Kelly, Della Randolph, Eduardo Martinez, Fred Lucero, Jason Lindsey, Jeff Carr, Jim Nantell, Joe Serrano, La’Tanya Dandie, Maria Torres, Michael Parker, Miquel Penn, Nancy Seto, Nannette Beacham, Richard Johnson, Rik Drury, Sarah Wally, Shiva Mishek, Steve Bell, Uche Uwahemu, Xavier Abrams