

Governor's Task Force on Minority Unemployment

May 12, 2017

9:00AM – 11:00AM

Employ Milwaukee, Room 118

2342 North 27th Street

Milwaukee, WI

MINUTES

Members Present: Lt. Governor Kleefisch; Rep. Jason Fields; Dr. Silvia Jackson; Secretary Allen; Grailing Jones; Dawn Pratt; William Martin; Dshal Young (for Eloise Anderson); Gerard Randall; Earl Buford; Seyoum Mengesha; Jerry Roberts; William Martin (for Wyman Winston)

Others Present: DWD DET Director Phil Koenig; DWD Deputy Secretary Georgia Maxwell; Tierney Gill; Laura Doolin; Rita Atkinson; Adonica Randall; Scott Jansen; Katie Mueller; Robert Cherry; Michael John; Mike Nichols; Richard Handler; Michael Hopkins; Calvin Lee; Peter Caffaro; Joan Hansen; Willie Wade; Alderwoman Lewis; Tim McMurty II; Alfredo Lunz; Niel Thoreson; Willie Wade; John Thomas; Nick Schultz; Dale Wilson; Matt Martin.

I. Welcome

II. Opening Remarks

- Co-Chair Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch
- Co-Chair State Rep. Jason Fields

Co-chair Fields welcomed everybody and talked through the survey that he had sent out. Due to the low response rate, he requested that Tierney Gill and Calvin Lee touch base and send out the survey again.

III. Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2017 – ACTION

Minutes were approved as presented.

IV. The Milwaukee Initiative Status Update

- Wisconsin Fast Forward Success Stories – Rita Atkinson, Adonica Randall

Rita Atkinson thanked everyone for attending the day's sessions and provided a brief update on the status of the Milwaukee Initiative. She welcomed the guest presenter, Adonica Randall, to share her personal success story with Wisconsin Fast Forward. Adonica shared personal anecdotes of her own journey, and encouraged the CWI and DWD to help find solutions to the turnover issue, help create and encourage a strong work ethic, not ignore the development of soft skills, and not leave blue collar workers behind as they continue to move the state forward.

V. Partner Updates

- Employ Milwaukee Update – Scott Jansen, Rob Cherry

Rob Cherry addressed the CWI about partnerships between state, corporate, and philanthropic funding sources to help address the unique issues plaguing the greater Milwaukee area. He spoke to the summer youth employment outreaches, and how they hoped to ramp up interest and attendance in the years ahead. However, as the cost was about \$2k per kid, there is a funding gap that they are seeking ways to help bridge. Follow-up questions and conversations dealt with the information needing to be gathered on each youth; how best to reach the youths that do not have other employment opportunities for the summer; and what to do with all of the youths that applied but were unable to be placed due to space constraints.

His presentation materials will be available on the CWI website following the day's meeting.

VI. Special Presentations – Reentry Initiatives around Workforce Development

- Integrated Reentry Employment Strategies (IRES) Initiative – Council on State Governments

The Council on State Governments provided a WebEx presentation on their efforts around reentry employment strategies, and the solutions they were providing to the challenges facing reentry. Their pilot project was based off a white paper, so steps were being taken and implemented to deal with additional training and intervention.

- WPRI Special Report on Reentry – Mike Nichols, President, Wisconsin Policy Research Institute

Co-chair Kleefisch introduced WPRI President Mike Nichols. Nichols walked the Task Force members through a special report that was provided them beforehand on their table. The report addressed reentry issues that are facing the community at large, social impact bonding, expungement, and solutions being suggested as a remedy to answer the situations. Co-chair Kleefisch expressed excitement in the work that they are doing, and extended the invitation for them to come to Wisconsin and help dip into the talent pools available here.

VII. Other Business

- Milwaukee Career Expo – June 8th, 2017 – Katie Mueller

Katie passed out informational flyers and provided a brief update on the Career Expo and asked people to attend the meeting. The Career Expo asked for the CWI/Task Force's help in promoting the event.

VIII. Next Meeting – August 11, 2017

IX. Closing Remarks

- Co-Chair Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch
- Co-Chair State Rep. Jason Fields

In the interests of time, there were no concluding remarks.

X. Adjournment

Co-chair Fields adjourned the meeting at 11:15AM.
