



# Workforce & Economic Opportunity Workgroup Minutes

DATE: March 10, 2018

TIME: 8:30am -10:00am

LOCATION: Worksystems, Inc,  
Columbia Conference Room

ATTENDEES: April Turner, Blair Schaeffer-Bisht, Caitlin Campbell, David Gaither, Jeff MacDonald, Jennifer Chevy, Kenneth DeWeese, Kenyatta Trice, Kitty Miller, Lee Cha, Melissa Hicks, Nancy Jason, Patricia McLean, Patrick Gihring, Peter Keaton, Sandi Guardolabene, Susanna Rempel, Tim Finnega, Walter Robinson III

## MEETING DISCUSSION

### Program Updates on new HFE Employment Investments:

Agencies with new HFE employment funds provided an update on how implementation of the new initiatives have gone to-date, including numbers served, challenges and opportunities.

**Worksystems** expanded employment program was implemented in January 2017. Numbers account for only 30 days of data:

- 35 applied; 28 registered: 22 receiving SNAP, none are receiving TANF
- There are approximately 6 agencies in the consortium and staff is hired and trained
- Upcoming meetings and events have been planned to talk further about the referral process
- Need to find out more details regarding accessing the community benefit fund (adding to future agenda item following our April meeting)
- The real answer to ending homelessness is to keep addressing the root cause and prepare people to be successful economically

**Central City Concern** has contracted to serve 70 people and received funding for two employment specialists. There have been 40 referrals to date and the plan moving forward is to hire more seasoned personnel.

- Would like to develop an inventory of employment services in our community overall, including what is funded through A Home for Everyone and what isn't

**Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)** was excited to share the hiring of an experienced career coach in January. They are currently serving 18-29 year olds with a focus on African Americans.

**Human Solutions** confirmed the hiring of three rent assistance coordinators. They are receiving lots of referrals but are experiencing rental screening barriers and challenging time limits. For the next meeting it was requested they add examples of specific case scenarios and include where resources are coming from in order to create a complete inventory of the employment resources that exist in our community.

**Black Parent Initiative (BPI)** stated there is an educational gap with the community members (19-22 year olds) they are assisting. Many of the members are receiving SNAP and TANF but they can't find jobs to support them off of TANF. BPI works hard to push members into programs at Portland Community College and Portland State University as some don't require a GED, but it is a challenging process. Overall, there needs to be a better way of marketing employment services.

**Homeless Youth Continuum** shared data on the number of youth served in their expanded skill training and work experience programs that staff at New Avenues for Youth and Outside In are providing to any HYC –enrolled youth. New Avenues for Youth is also working with schools to help better identify students who need employment services and supports.

- It was suggested that these updates and data points be shared with the Executive Committee and Coordinating Boards of the Home For Everyone.

#### **Budget Update:**

Budget hearings will be held in the upcoming months and attending hearings to provide testimony regarding the impacts of these services, along with thanking electeds for continuing to support these programs, was strongly advised. The City of Portland and Multnomah County requested that current levels of funding be maintained in their budget submissions for FY18.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- ❖ Research how to access community benefit funds (to do following the April meeting)
- ❖ Develop an inventory for who is funded through AHFE and who is not and provide examples of specific case scenarios
- ❖ Create list of long-term programs that have been successful for brainstorming session

### **NEXT MEETING**

Friday, April 7, 2017

9:00am – 10:30am

Worksystems Inc.

Columbia Conference Room