



AHFE Workforce & Economic Opportunity Workgroup Minutes

DATE: April 7, 2017

TIME: 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

LOCATION: Worksystems
Columbia Conference Room
1618 SW 1st Ave
Portland OR 97201

ATTENDEES: Rhea Graves, Rachel Post, Peter Katon, Victoria Libov, Melissa Hicks, Patricia McLean, Stacey Triplett, Jill Weir, Sandi Guardalabene, Andrew Mcgough, Patrick Gihring

MEETING DISCUSSION

- The federal legislative climate is ideal for advocating workforce programs.
- Group discussed the need to complete an inventory of active programs.
 - Discussion about the importance of determining the actual capacity that we're serving through active programs
 - Rachel suggested that we focus on determining unduplicated numbers in the data
 - Agreement that the initial inventory will cover "who's doing the work," "what demographics are being served" and "what are the costs."
 - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to be a tool in collecting this information.
 - Requires name, demographic, and other information be reported to HUD about unduplicated folks who have retained housing/secured housing
 - Allows breakout by demographic information
 - Rachel suggested asking the Joint Office about proposing a method to identify a number for the total unmet need we have currently.
 - Requested that the Joint office send a request to providers to collect information about the programs that will be included on the inventory.
 - Caitlin will work on this with Rachel
- **Aligned Partner Network:** Worksystems designs programs and coordinates community organizations to leverage each agency's expertise to move people with multiple challenges into career-track employment.
- **SNAP 50/50 program:**
 - Department of Agriculture program
 - Goal is to reduce reliance on food stamps
 - Match funding to folks receiving food stamps
 - 50 cent match on ever dollar for qualifying services

- Qualifying services include (but are not limited to):
 - Vocational training
 - Job placement
- Funding relatively secure in the federal budget for this program
 - Benefits increase resources despite federal cuts
 - Increases support for local investment and encourages points of collaboration with other partners
- Central City Concern and New Avenues for Youth has steady programs already
 - Worksystems working on a pilot and creating the infrastructure needed for this program
 - Important to ensure that services aren't duplicitously billed and that these funds not be used for people on TANF. Only allowable for individuals on SNAP.
- Jeff Reardon and Worksystems – HB 2531 Prosperity 1000
 - **HB 2531 Prosperity 1000 Summary:** Prosperity 1000 appropriates moneys from the General Fund to provide career coaching, occupational training, and job placement to 1000 job seekers experiencing poverty to establish a model program that unites key workforce and economic development partners, builds the skills of low-income Oregonians, generates federal matching funds, and is scalable across Oregon's public workforce development system.
 - General Fund request \$5 million
 - Goes to Ways and Means next week
 - **Bill seeks to address the current poverty realities:**
 - 1 out of 3 families in East Portland receive food stamps
 - 45% of all food stamp recipients in the state are working
 - Low-wage jobs continue to increase in majority
 - Employers are unable to find employees with the training needed for positions.
 - 30% reduction in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds
 - Suggestion was raised about appealing to JOHS for endorsement on the bill.
 - Patrick mentioned that endorsement letters may be requested by Worksystems.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ASSIGNED
1. Add HB 2531 update on next meeting's agenda	Rhea
2. Send out the address for the City Budget Forum occurring on 5/10	Rhea
3. Slideshow for HB2531 to be distributed to the group	Patrick
4. Caitlin to connect with Rachel about messaging points for public testimony at upcoming budget hearings. Rachel recommended that members provide testimony at the 5/11 City Budget Forum.	Caitlin/Rachel
5. Send out Doodle poll to schedule next Workforce meeting	JOHS