



MEETING MINUTES
NYC Workforce Development Board
Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 2024
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Board Members Present:

Laurice Arroyo	Grace Bonilla	David Bolotsky
Daniel Bustillo	Colleen Galvin	Christina Ho
Laura James	Matt Klein	Degan Leopold
Felix Matos-Rodriguez	Jeff Papa	Merrill Pond
Adria Powell	Daphany Sanchez	Lisa Sorin
Alysia Steinmann	Eliana Palmay (Designee)	SheHila Stephens (Designee)

Guests Present:

Francois Acosta	Kenneth Adams	Ogbe Agbato
Paula Baily	Linda Baran	Erin Bierbusse
Shantel Brooks	Eunsun Cho	Fred Cibelli
Erin Darcy	N. Akita Felix	Lucy Friedman
Lourena Gboeah	Antoinette Gregg	Sarah Henderson
Jessica Johnson-Cope	Gregory Meves	Cristopher Morel Carreno
Yurij Pawluck	Randy Peers	Judith Smith
Sin Ting (Kimmy) So	Tammy Underwood	Harini Venkatesh

Staff Present:

Adolpho Casillas	Danielle Chan	Brendan Collins
Phoebe Downes	Thwiba Eltom	Leah Hebert
Nija Howard	Martha Jackson	Ji Lee
Daniel Liss	Elizabeth Murtin	Chris Neale
Shondelle Nicholls	Abby Jo Sigal	Matthew Walker

Note: This meeting immediately followed a meeting of the New York City Workforce Development Council, which ran from 8:30am to 10am.

Welcome

Chair Adria Powell started the meeting at 10am, welcoming members and previewing the items of the Board meeting agenda.

Vote on Board Chair

Abby Jo Sigal, Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Talent and Workforce Development (“NYC Talent”), thanked Adria Powell for her work as Chair of the Board since 2019. She explained that the chair of the Board must be a representative of business.

The Director of the New York City Workforce Development Board, Chris Neale, gave an overview of the election process and explained that there were two candidates to be Co-Chairs of the Board, Adria Powell, President and CEO of Cooperative Home Care Associates and Merrill Pond, Executive Vice President of the Partnership for New York City. Merrill Pond nominated herself as co-chair because, as she argued, she is uniquely positioned to represent the private sector. Adria Powell nominated herself as co-chair. She has served as the Chair since late 2019. She said her organization provides training and employment, and consequently can offer a helpful perspective on worker voice.

Director Neale called a vote and the Board voted unanimously to elect both individuals as Co-Chairs.

Resolutions for Consideration

Director Neale spoke about the Resolutions for Consideration that were sent out.

The first resolution is to transfer WIOA funding from Dislocated Worker to Adult. Director Neale described this task as a necessary annual adjustment that “right-sizes” the budget to the actual proportion of customers the Workforce1 system serves. Under WIOA, Adult customers are those 18 years or older. Dislocated Workers are adults who recently lost their jobs or are informed of imminent layoffs. Consequently, the resolution proposes to transfer \$20 million of Dislocated Worker funds into Adult funds. WIOA allows Boards to transfer up to 100% of funding from one pot into the other.

Newly re-elected Co-Chair Adria Powell presented the motion, which was presented, seconded, and then approved unanimously.

The second resolution Director Neale presented was to “Establish a WIOA Program Monitoring Policy.” Director Neale explained that the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) both have extensive program monitoring policies in place. However, the New York State Department of Labor clarified that the Board needed to establish an umbrella policy providing approval for both of these policies. Newly elected Co-Chair Merrill Pond asked why a line about fiscal monitoring had been removed from the previous draft of the resolution. Director Neale responded that, after an extensive conversation with the New York State Department of Labor, he confirmed that this policy should only cover program monitoring. Neale reassured the Board that all WIOA monitoring is in compliance and promised to follow up with any necessary changes to fiscal monitoring policy.

Co-Chair Powell called a motion to vote, which was presented, seconded, and voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Director's Report

Director Neale explained that DYCD recently completed its competitive Request for Proposals process and selected providers for its WIOA Youth Programs. He went over the “Learn & Earn” and “Train & Earn” models. More information can be found in the board book. This information is also available to the public. Co-Chair Pond said there is concern about getting these contracts awarded in a timely manner and there is a concern that this work may not be done if the providers do not have active contracts. Neale said the Mayor’s Office is working on speeding up the process for which contractors are paid. Member Randolph Peers asked when the contract services would kick in. Director Neale said they are anticipating no later than January 1, 2025, and that some returning providers could begin sooner.

Director Neale described two key resolutions recently passed by the Executive Committee of the Board. First, he described the Local Self-Sufficiency Policy, which the Executive Committee recently approved updates to. This policy simplifies eligibility and allows for some exceptions under limited circumstances. The Executive Committee approved two exceptions: training investments in respiratory therapy training and the nurse educator fellowship program.

Director Neale also described an update to the Individual Training Grant (ITG) training policy approved by the Executive Committee: an increase to the maximum amount for Individual Training Grants for Commercial Driver’s Licenses from \$2,000 to \$3,250.

With respect to SBS’ performance on WIOA generally, Workforce1 has been placing individuals in wages that are averaging \$19/hour, three dollars higher than minimum wage, showing the impact the system is having and its long-planned shift away from minimum wage jobs.

Meeting Closing

Co-Chair Powell thanked everyone for being at the meeting and noted that the exact date for the next meeting will be announced shortly. She made a motion to close the meeting, which was presented, seconded, and voted unanimously in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM.