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## Training for Upward Mobility and Labor Market Value Action Team

April 20, 2020

11:30 AM

Meeting Minutes

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Attendees: Cathey Ector, Lesley Brickhouse, Lanarda Williams, Kristin F., Amanda Salami,  
Stephanie Sims

### **Welcome & Acknowledgement of Members Present**

#### **Member Check-In**

#### **Community Needs and Resources: How Can We Help? Wake County Public Schools: Lesley Brickhouse**

- Lesley Brickhouse shared an update on Wake County Public Schools. This is their 2<sup>nd</sup> week of remote learning. They're experiencing some technology challenges and some students do not have access to remote learning devices at home. The delivery of these devices to students with transportation barriers fell through as some of the bus drivers contracted COVID-19. Students are essentially missing all the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- Lesley stated the current focus is keeping students engaged. All end of year testing has been suspended except for 12<sup>th</sup> graders. All other students will be on a pass-fail basis.
- Cathey Ector asked if students will be promoted to the next grade? Basically, yes. During the first quarter of the next school year, schools will do diagnostic testing to make sure students are placed in the correct classes.
- Cathey asked what does this mean for college acceptance? Lesley explained this is decided by the college. Some colleges are saying if students received a passing grade that they will honor their grades. Colleges will also do diagnostic testing. Most students haven't taken the SAT as it was cancelled. Some are considering students taking the SAT from home, but a lot of colleges have security concerns with this.
- Cathey asked how can TUM help? TUM can assist by continuing to disperse resources and information. TUM can also assist with marketing online SAT prep sessions as well as feeding programs that deliver lunch and dinner to those who qualify. Lesley will share this information with the group.

#### **City of Raleigh: Cathey Ector**

- The City of Raleigh's stay-at-home order has been extended until May 8. The City is still planning summer and fall programs including the Raleigh Summer Youth Employment Program (RSYEP) and Partnership Raleigh.
- RSYEP was midway through the last quarter of interviews when the pandemic began. They have now began conducting virtual interviews that should be finished by the end of April. They are still hiring 200 students for the 9-week program contingent upon virus mitigation. No more applications are being accepted at this time.

- This pandemic has allowed the program to examine areas where they can save money and identify things that are not essential.
- Partnership Raleigh is still hiring 25 students. The program can be held in fall if needed and will be able to hire more students due to getting additional funding from Bank of America. No additional applications are being accepted at this time. Cathey stressed that at this time especially, these jobs are needed. The breast of unemployment is astounding. The sheer number of people who are not working means there is opportunity for TUM to help.
- Cathey noted that working from home has allowed her to hone her technology skills- a welcome side effect to this pandemic.

### **Project Updates: Wake Works**

- Wake Works is offering a free apprenticeship program through Wake Tech. 10 different apprenticeships positions are offered. Find more information [online](#).

### **EEASI**

- The City of Raleigh awarded SEV the Impact Partner Grants for \$25,000. SEV matched with an additional \$25,000, totaling \$50,000 for the Empowering Entrepreneurs and Seeding Innovation Challenge. The program has both a youth and adult component. The workshops will feature information on the IceHouse model on Entrepreneurship and youth teamwork.
- The adult component will hopefully create the entrepreneur mindset and help hone areas of interest, or off-ramps they can be connected to.
- Dynasty is inviting a guest speaker who has experience doing programming online. He may have ideas about how to create a virtual curriculum.

### **NC Works Career Center: Lanarda Williams**

- The NC Works Center is operating remotely.
- Training and employment services are still available via ncworks.gov.
- The local reentry council (LRC) will have an influx of returning citizens due to COVID-19. They are looking to identify housing assistance, but this has presented a challenge.
- Cathey asked if the LRC is connected with the Affordable Housing Committee? They may have more information.

### **Workforce Development Month Planning**

- Cathey wants to focus on small businesses and helping people get re-employed. If you have any other ideas about focus areas, please feel free to share. Cathey will talk with Sterling and Richard and share their ideas with the group at the next meeting.
- Kristin added that part of the work group in which she is involved through Capital Area Workforce Development focuses on living wages in Raleigh/Wake County. Perhaps we can do awareness raising-we need to get people employed but these jobs need to pay well. We could explore offering certification classes for business that do pay a living wage and offer workshops for businesses that want to pay a living wage but don't know how. This pandemic has really highlighted the needs in our community.
- Lesley Brickhouse added that TUM should explore a workshop that highlights and gives a good definition to what small business is.

- Lesley also added that diversification of small business has been a key factor in businesses staying afloat during this pandemic. It is important to be able to adapt and offer services that may not be a part of normal operations. This can be another area TUM explores for WFD month.
- Kristin stated another focus area could be helping businesses develop a strategy and online presence.

## **Adjourn**

**Next meeting:** May 12 at 11:30 AM