

**Attendees:** Chuck Allan, Emily Aquino, Cassilda Campbell, Cassara Cole, Jennifer Geiger, Becka Haberbush, Theodore Jordan Jr., Lindsay Murphy, Shalym Náter Vázquez, Chad Rieflin, Julia Rood, Delia Smith, Antwan Williams

## **Welcome/ Member Sharing**

### **IBERO**

- Starting construction on Clifford Avenue location
  - Community Resource Building will be the face of the agency
    - All referrals will go through there
    - Will focus on advocacy and putting the community first
    - Space to include a board room with a capacity of 75 people
      - Will be utilized for community members to gather, hold meetings, etc.
    - Sustainability Employment and Educational Services will be operating out of this location
    - Anticipated to be completed by the end of February 2022
- New program in Youth Services: Familias Unidas (United Families)
  - Partnership with the University of Miami
  - United Family to provide training and home assistance to families
  - New workshops to encourage conversations with families on reducing risky behaviors
    - Will conduct home visits as well
  - Will start recruitment in January 2022

### **DePaul WorkGuide**

- Currently at a lull with programs
- Looking for referrals from ACCESS-VR
- Conducting community outreach and job development in the community to get people placed
  - Hoping for January to turn things around with enrollment

### **ACCES-VR**

- Counselors have started to provide services for youth in all high schools in the area
- If you are unsure of the appointed counselor for any of the schools or agencies, feel free to reach out

### **Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester**

- Go for Gold Program- youth financial education program
  - Have a peer education model
    - After completing training, youth can then go out into the community and/or their school and can do a presentation on what they learned
    - Goal is to expand the number of youths receiving that education and help them become leaders in that space

- Youth are compensated with a \$50 incentive for each presentation they conduct, up to 5 presentations
- Any organization interested in putting their youth through the training please feel free to reach out to Cassara Cole: [ccole@cccsofrochester.org](mailto:ccole@cccsofrochester.org)

### RochesterWorks! Initiatives

- RocSEEDS
  - In July, the State notified RWI they would be extending the SYEP (Summer Youth Employment Program) to offer employment to the Out of School population
  - **Safety, Economic, Empowerment, Development, and Support (SEEDS)**
    - To target out of school youth between the ages of 18 to 24
    - Must reside in one of the nine targeted City of Rochester neighborhoods
      - 14605, 14606, 14608, 14609, 14611, 14613, 14615, 14619 and 14621
  - In collaboration with the Monroe County Department of Human Services and Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce to facilitate the program through December 2021 with a target of 50 youth to serve
  - Provide Job Readiness Training (JRT) for 2 days along with wrap around services to make sure they are successful with the employment opportunity
  - Application was released in September
    - 118 youth applied, 56 registered to participate, 38 completed JRT and were connected to employers
    - 18 are still working and we are looking to connect 9 beyond the length of the program
  - Program assessment
    - Had a small window to come up with a program, application process, advertise and recruit
    - When going back to the State will be able to share feedback
      - Extension of Job Readiness Training (many of the young adults require more than 2 days of training)
        - Recommended to have a 4-week paid JRT program to encourage engagement and retainment
        - Originally decided to keep the JRT as a 2-day training to help participants get started in employment to fulfill financial needs
  - Request for an extension to spend down the dollars and get the youth the proper training
    - Those that were ready for employment, we were successful with and were able to benefit the most from the program
    - Many youths lacked the awareness of a professional environment
    - Youth needed a lot of support and hand holding
- What if each youth was assigned a mentor onsite to assist and support them to provide mentorship?
  - Those that needed more resources and support were able to be co-enrolled in Navigator Services

- Spoke with employers to remind them of the population we are working with and the need for mentorship

### **Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) Local Initiative Request for Qualifications**

- 2.25 million in funds to combat Gun Violence for young adults between the ages of 18-24 out of school youth residing in one of the nine targeted gun violence zip codes
- Looking to serve 675 youth and place 450 within full time employment
- In September released an RFQ (Request For Qualifications) to existing RWI Navigator Agencies and Qualified Community Service Providers
  - Have until the end of July (short-term window)
  - Looking to increase Navigator network and Community-based organizations
    - Current agencies that apply will be able to hire an additional navigator that will have a caseload of 27 young adults
    - Community-based organizations to provide training, job readiness, recruitment and connect young adults to employment opportunities
    - To date, out of the 6 agencies, 3 have applied and 1 Community-based organization has applied
  - RWI is looking to hire on 4 additional Navigators to work specifically with GVP
  - If you have any referrals please feel to share, position is currently posted on RWI's website: <https://www.rochesterworks.org/>
- Set aside funds for incentives, supportive services, Individual Training Accounts and wrap around services-\$275,000
- Apprenticeship opportunities, manufacturing fields and creating pathways
  - YEP work experience program currently has a partnership with Product Integration and Manufacturing
    - Has been working directly with RocSEEDS as one of our top employers
    - YAMTAP provides intensive training and employment upon completion of program
  - Have connected youth with ITEC as well

### **Summer Youth Employment Program Request For Proposals (RFP)**

- Released on November 17, 2021, on RWI's website
- Every year the Bidders Conference was mandatory to attend to submit proposal, this year removed that requirement and strongly encouraged attendance to answer questions and simplify the submission process
  - First Conference held on December 1, 2021
    - 13 organizations were in attendance
  - January 12, 2022, at 1pm via Zoom will be the last Conference
    - Registration details are on the website
- July 5<sup>th</sup> – August 12, 2022, the program will be running
- Currently in the process of streamlining the application process

- Will be integrating the application used for applying and the document submission application into one system to improve and simplify application process
  - Cost was about \$20,000
- With the City of Rochester, have partnered with the Rochester City School District (RCSD) and Monroe County DHS to help spread the read and make the application process as easy as possible
  - Work Permit applications can be completed at schools
  - DHS to help with the application process for Social Security Cards
  - Application to go live on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022- March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Collaboration with East High School will be a part of their Future Ready Event
  - Will have job readiness training during the month of February and will be guest presenters at the Job Fair with the City of Rochester to provide information about the Summer Employment Program
- Parent engagement
  - Will have parent orientation available on the website to provide information and provide a Zoom link for a virtual live orientation for those that want to attend
    - Will not be mandatory to attend, but highly recommended
  - Will also have in person document collection for 2 dates to remove any digital barriers and to make sure everyone has access to successfully applying
- Pre-Pandemic 2019
  - 2,545 applications submitted
  - Served a total of 749 youth between RWI and City of Rochester
- Pandemic 2020
  - 1, 996 applications submitted
  - Served a total of 329 youth between RWI and City of Rochester
- Post- Pandemic 2021
  - 2,226 applications submitted
  - Served a total of 497 youth between RWI and City of Rochester
- We lost numbers during the pandemic, but the numbers are starting to go back up
- As of January 1, 2022, minimum wage will increase to \$13.20, and our goal is to spend every dollar and not send money back to the State
  - To connect as many youths as possible with a work experience
- Looking for or partners including Youth Committee organizations to be able to be a job site, whether it's to provide programing or host an intern within your department
  - If interested in being a part of our Direct Placement program, please connect with Delia Smith: [dsmith@rochesterworks.org](mailto:dsmith@rochesterworks.org)
- If interested in being a part of the 2022 SYEP Proposal Review Committee, please contact Cassilda Campbell: [ccampbell@rochesterworks.org](mailto:ccampbell@rochesterworks.org)
  - Proposals are due January 26, 2022- will be reviewing in early February

#### WIOA

- Working closely with the State
  - They are providing a 10-part series on youth engagement, data entry, case management, etc.

- 2 hours' worth of training every month to enhance the services we are providing our youth
- Just received 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report card from the State and will share at our next meeting the results

**Next Meeting- Thursday, March 10, 2022**