

Attendees: Antwan Williams, Caridad Sosa-Blackwell, Richard Turner, Theo Jordan, Rebecca Haberbusch, Bibiana Silvera-Portacio, Chuck Allen, Jennifer Geiger, Rosemarie McKinney, Leslie Harvey, Cassilda Campbell

Welcome/ Member Sharing

- **Monroe County**
 - Hanif Abdul-Wahid retired from the County
 - Rich Turner will be no longer be with the County by the end of the month
 - The County is eliminating the current Workforce Development Division
 - Uncertain of what will happen with ongoing programs
 - RWI thanks you both for your many years of partnership on SYEP, Proposal Review Committee, etc.
- **RW Career Center Updates**
 - E- learning website available on RWI website: <https://elearning.rochesterworks.org/>
 - Professional Development
 - Youth/ Jobseekers training available to
 - Preparation for Virtual Interview training
 - Workforce GPS
 - Workforce development- anyone can create an account
 - Different community youth programs listed
 - Workshops available
 - COVID Updates/ Resources available
 - Meet with Brent Whitfield, Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau Executive Director
 - Connected on partnership moving forward
 - Shared how Mike Barry has worked with the Committee in the past and moving forward to see how they can be the go to with expanding into the suburban areas
 - Currently 90% of participants are City base
 - Goal is to tap in those pocket areas of low-income households to offer services
 - Move to 57 St. Paul Street Office
 - Slow move due to COVID
 - IT currently working on wiring and setting up internet access
 - Planning on staff being on a hybrid schedule the 1st of the year
 - Goal of the building is to be a one stop location for youth services
 - Youth grades 1st - 12th grade, out of school youth 16-24 years of age
- **ACCES-VR**
 - New orientation videos posted on website
 - 3 videos available: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr>
 - How to fill out application step by step
 - Fillable form, no longer offering in-person orientations
 - Still accepting applications and providing services

- Youth currently enrolled in school would need to connect with their transition counselor
 - All counselors are liaisons to the various high schools
- If out of school youth, can apply online/ mail application
- Require documented disability, functioning limitations, etc.
 - Goal is to make those requiring services, eligible
 - Counselors will meet with people to determine eligibility
- **Housing Council**
 - Intaking phone calls regarding landlord/ tenant questions
 - Hotline Mon-Fri. 9am-1pm
 - Counselor available to walk through the dos and don'ts of landlord/tenant issues
 - Questions can be answered on website
 - Videos available on website
- **Refugees Helping Refugees**
 - Loving without Borders campaign
 - GoFundMe site for COVID
 - Participating with Rent/Mortgage relief program for clients/ members of the refugee committee
 - Seeing a large need for that funding within the community
 - Will be available until the end of December

WIOA Updates

- Still moving forward with programs (6 agencies)
 - Some on a hybrid schedule
 - A few months back, sent out email to request a plan of action to respond to/ address full enrollment
 - December 31st programs are to be at full enrollment
 - Want to continue to provide level of service
 - Bibi is currently monitoring files
 - Annually required to monitor files, OSOS
 - Created an MOU (Memorandums of Understanding) for all partners
 - Observation from State last year that all MOU's should be created under RochesterWorks!
 - When programs are not able to provide inhouse services, they are subcontracting services
 - Created an MOU to fulfill State requirements to stay within compliance
- Secured \$50,000 Charitable Foundation grant from ESL
 - Will be purchasing 90 laptops and 40 hotspots
 - Digital divide was a major barrier in the beginning of COVID
 - Will create a policy on how to rent out to programs for usage
 - Kudos to Bibi for accessing grant
- **SYEP Updates**
 - Approximately spent down \$400,000 this past summer, received \$1.5 million for funding

- A lot of youth did not have access to required documents (social security card, work permit, report card), barriers with the digital divide, apprehension to work due to COVID
 - Served a combined 332 youth with City of Rochester
- In the process of preparing for Summer 2021
 - RFP released November 18, 2020
 - Available on website:
<https://www.rochesterworks.org/connect/request-for-proposals>
 - 1st Bidders Conference: December 2,2020
 - Low attendance- 6 agencies
 - All questions asked at Conference will be posted to website to ensure the same dissemination of information to everyone
 - Last Bidders Conference: January 6, 2020 at 11am via zoom
 - Registration on Eventbrite
 - Attendance to one of the two Conferences is mandatory for Proposal submission
 - State is looking for it to be a true work experience to reflect employment
 - Asking for those applying to partner with employers to create a “real work experience”
 - Proposal are due no later than **Wednesday, January 27th, 2021 11:59pm**
- Volunteers needed for Review Committee in February
 - Recommendations will be submitted to the Workforce Development Board (WDB)
 - Contact Theo Jordan if you would like to be on the committee:
tjordan@rochesterworks.org

Next Meeting- Thursday, March 11, 2021