

**Program Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**September 16, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:** Mike Hesketh, Jenny Lampton, Patricia Williams, Christine Tarquinio, Lisa Thompson (proxy for Sadiqa Reynolds), Tamara Cook, Donnie Humphrey, Caitlin Blair

**Staff:** Latricia Swope, Cindy Read, Michael Gritton, Chris Locke, Angella Wilson, Bailey Preston, Brian Luerman, Dana Moorer, Evelyn Woock, Katie Elliott, Lada Gasparac, Lori Hiser, Mike Karman, Patrick Garvey, Regina Phillips, Sarah Ehresman, Stacy Roderick

**Contractors/Guests:** Andrea Wyatt, Ashley Pierce, Bria Henson, Eric Hicks, Lauren Abbott, Linda Witt, Renee Walters, Rodney Cross, Steve James, Lynn Rippy

**Welcome and Introductions:** *Mike Hesketh*

Chairman Hesketh welcomed the Program Oversight Committee, staff and guests to the meeting. He asked Cindy Read if there were any changes to the agenda. She stated that Michael Gritton has been called to a meeting with the State at 10:00am, and so he would give his Executive Director's Report after the vote for the SummerWorks recommendation. Chairman Hesketh agreed. Cindy introduced Rodney Cross. Rodney is the new Operations Manager at the Nia Center due to Zakiyyah Raymore retiring over the summer. In addition, Andrea Wyatt introduced herself as the new job developer at The Spot.

**Review & Approve Minutes from August Meeting Minutes -** *Mike Hesketh*

A motion to approve the August minutes was made by Lisa Thompson and seconded by Patricia Williams. Tamara Cook has abstained. The motion passed without opposition.

**Labor Market Update – Summer Youth Employment –** *Sarah Ehresman*

Sarah shared that because the agenda was focusing on YouthBuild Louisville and SummerWorks, she pulled together data and shared a presentation on youth employment. The presentation contains data both nationally and from the Louisville region. She then opened the floor for comments and questions. Chairman Hesketh asked about the investment in SummerWorks. Michael stated KentuckianaWorks receives \$1 million per year from the Mayor and the Metro Council, and raises about half a million in addition. SummerWorks budget would be about \$1.5 million per year. This presentation will be made available to the committee.

**Program Update – SummerWorks 2022 –** *Chris Locke and YouthBuild Louisville*

Chris shared his mutual appreciation on expansion of SummerWorks, and he turned it over to Lynn Rippy, Linda Witt, and Steve James of the YouthBuild team to present the recap of SummerWorks 2022. Lynn presented a slideshow to the Committee that will be made available to the group. Chairman asked about TechBoss in detail. Lynn Rippy explained that TechBoss provides 50 to 60 young people of color an introduction to the Information Technology pathway and supports them in building a product. The Committee would be able to attend the Graduation that displays that end product, and how it has impacted them. Technology entrepreneurship to promote change is what TechBoss stands for.

**Staff Recommendation: Renewal of YouthBuild Louisville contract for Operations of SummerWorks –** *Chris Locke*

Chris Locke stated that KentuckianaWorks requests approval to renew the contract with YouthBuild Louisville to operate SummerWorks for an amount not to exceed \$625,000. The contract is effective October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. He explained that YouthBuild Louisville has been the

KentuckianaWorks SummerWorks operator for six consecutive years. In October of 2021, the contract was re-competed, per policy, and YouthBuild was the successful bidder. Chris emphasized the continuity that KentuckianaWorks has with YouthBuild. Louisville Metro Government is funding the program in the amount of \$1 million, and as Michael mentioned another half a million was raised by individuals and private foundations. Chris continued to recap the history of SummerWorks, and what is expected going forward into SummerWorks 2023 that was provided in a memo for the Committee. He opened the floor for comments and questions. Tamara Cook asked about increasing the wage of \$12 per hour –are there ideas in the works to increase the wage because other employers have a higher wage. Chris responded that KentuckianaWorks is in the dilemma that if we increase the wage, it limits the number of participants.

Chris asked approval to renew the contract with YouthBuild Louisville to operate SummerWorks for an amount not to exceed \$625,000. The contract is effective October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. A motion to approve was made by Lisa Thompson and seconded by Tamara Cook. The approval was passed unanimously.

**Executive Director’s Report – Michael Gritton**

Michael thanked YouthBuild and Christ Locke for their teamwork at running SummerWorks with all the obstacles presented by the pandemic. Regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, he shared that he is in conversation with many workforce colleagues around that country who are receiving ARPA funding exceeding the amount that KentuckianaWorks has been able to obtain. He emphasized that conversations are in the works, and the day prior he was speaking with the Brookings Foundation from Washington D.C. There is no update on the ARPA funding from the Metro Council. Once they make a public announcement, KentuckianaWorks will know more. Michael concluded the Executive Director’s Report.

**Program Update – Comprehensive Career Center – Angella Wilson**

Angella introduced Rodney Cross, the Operation Manager of the KCC Nia Comprehensive Center. Rodney works for Equus Workforce Solutions, and previously worked for Goodwill, so he has many years in workforce under his belt. Rodney updated the Committee by giving a presentation that was made available to the group. Angella Wilson added that WIOA youth and adult services are available not only at the Nia center, but also at the centers in Bullitt County and Henry County. Chairman Hesketh complimented the increased foot traffic at the Nia Center since the pandemic.

**Adjourn - Mike Hesketh**

Chairman Hesketh noted that in the Equus report, there was a success story from Shelby County that would be an amazing testimony to spread awareness. Patrick Garvey agreed with the Chairman’s suggestion to feature more testimonies to spread the word and will connect with Bria Henson and Rodney Cross for further discussion. There is no meeting in October, and the next meeting will be November 11, 2023. Cindy Read added that the next meeting will be concentrated on the innerworkings of the programs and funding. The Nia Center is the next possible spot for an in-person meeting. With there being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.