

**SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 27, 2021
3:00pm - 5:00pm**

City Tower Large Conference Room 10.W1003

100 W. Houston St., San Antonio, TX 78205

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daphene Carson
Sonia Garza
Jerry Graeber
Doug McMurry
Ben Peavy
Rosa Santana
Chair, Thomas Evans
Councilmember Manny Pelaez

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Peter John Holt
Emily Spurlock
Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia

STAFF PRESENT:

Alejandra Lopez, Assistant City Manager
Christina Ramirez, City Attorney's Office
Amy Contreras, Assistant to the Director
Mary Mills, Advisory Board Staff Liaison
Mike Ramsey, Workforce Development Office Executive Director

A. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Evans called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. after quorum was established.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No citizens registered in advance to make public comments.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Evans asked members to review the Advisory Board meeting minutes of December 7, 2021. Ms. Santana moved to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Graeber seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

D. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

1. City of San Antonio Workforce and SA: Ready to Work Updates

Mr. Ramsey presented the Board with Workforce Development Office and SA: Ready to Work updates, highlighting the employer pledge, the upcoming employer engagement press conference, and the transition from Train for Jobs SA to SA: Ready to Work.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding new Employer Engagement Subcommittee members.

Ms. Santana began with a presentation on the Employer Engagement Subcommittee's last two meetings. She explained the process for selecting the list of employers to be considered and she presented five employer nominees for Subcommittee membership.

Regarding Port San Antonio, Ms. Santana that she believes Port San Antonio can be an effective champion of the Ready to Work program within the employer group at Port San Antonio, and that she felt comfortable approving Port San Antonio, even though it is not a large employer.

Regarding Bank of America, Ms. Santana explained that she wanted to recommend at least one financial institution as prospective a nominee, and she believes that it is beneficial to have a large employer like Bank of America that is hiring many employees currently.

Regarding Baptist Health, Alterman and Jarvis Moore, Inc., Ms. Santana expressed common agreement among the Subcommittee members to support these nominations.

Dr. Evans asked for a motion to approve Ms. Santana's nominations. Mr. McMurry motioned to approve the nominees, and Mr. Peavy seconded.

Prior to the vote, Councilman Pelaez noted that Juan Antonio Flores from Port San Antonio had contacted him to let him know that he would not be accepting Port San Antonio's nomination for the Subcommittee, and the Councilman expressed his desire to amend the motion to approve to exclude Port San Antonio and to recommend Julissa Carielo from the DreamOn Group instead.

Ms. Santana asked if the group could discuss this decision further before approving the new nominee. She recommended that Methodist Health System may be a more appropriate employer. She asked if the Board would be satisfied to leave the seat vacant for now to allow for more discussions with employers.

Mr. Peavy expressed his approval.

Councilman Pelaez agreed with Ms. Santana's suggestion and requested to again amend his motion to approve the remaining four employer nominees.

Mr. Graeber mentioned that it may be worthwhile to include someone from the Small Business Advisory Commission and that the Board can discuss it at a future meeting.

Mr. McMurry accepted Councilman Pelaez's amendment to his original motion to approve.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the following nominees:

1. Jennifer Cantu, Bank of America
2. Paul Garza, Alterman
3. Jarvis Moore, Jarvis Moore Inc. And Get Right City
4. Stephanie Talley, Baptist Health System

Ms. Lopez explained that the Small Business Advisory Commission is very interested in engaging in SA: Ready to Work in some way, and that she appreciates the Employer Engagement Subcommittee members taking more time to potentially consider an SBAC member employer for Subcommittee membership.

3. Community Outreach Subcommittee Updates.

Mr. McMurry presented on discussions and actions from the Subcommittee's January meeting. He will be reaching out to the Asian Chamber of Commerce, to Mr. Juan Antonio Flores and others to potentially recruit one or more members to serve on the Subcommittee.

4. Executive Session to Discuss SA: Ready to Work Contracts

At 3:20pm, the Board entered Executive Session to discuss legal matters pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Local government Code. At 4:23pm, they reconvened in open session. No action was taken.

E. STAFF MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ramsey thanked the Advisory Board members for their support and continued advocacy for SA: Ready to Work.

Dr. Evans noted that in his experience observing Mr. Ramsey speak at public events, he is impressed with his ability to garner support for the program and to speak to its importance to the community.

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Evans asked the members to put forward items to include on the next Advisory Board meeting agenda. Ms. Garza requested an agenda item to discuss accountability metrics for the Ready to Work partners.

Dr. Carson asked a question regarding the management of the SA: Ready to Work social media accounts, as she wants to share them with her network. Ms. Contreras mentioned that the Ready

to Work marketing agency will handle social media once its contract is approved, and that City staff would review and update current social media.

Mr. Graeber asked whether the public application for SA: Ready to Work will be accessible via social media, and Ms. Contreras responded that the link to the public application portal for the program will be published on the program's social media accounts, and that applicants may call 3-1-1 to preregister for the program.

Mr. McMurry asked to include consideration of nominees to the Community Outreach Subcommittee on a future agenda.

Mr. Graeber asked City staff whether there are any important milestones or decisions that will need to come before the Board in the next few months and asked whether a calendar of these milestones can be provided to the Board members. Ms. Lopez thanked him for that suggestion and mentioned that the Board will likely need to review the program's budget for the next fiscal year in April. Ms. Contreras added that another review of the target industries and occupations will also be coming up in April.

Mr. Graeber also asked if details on the upcoming Ready to Work press conference can be sent to the Board members. Ms. Garza seconded this idea and requested that invites to upcoming events be emailed to the members.

G. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:32pm.

APPROVED:
