

**SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Room at Alamo Colleges DSO
2222 N Alamo St., San Antonio, TX 78215**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023
1:00pm - 3:00pm**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jerry Graeber
Jennifer Cantu
Ben Peavy
Doug McMurry
Amanda Wright
Councilmember Pelaez

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sonia Garza
Peter John Holt
Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia

STAFF PRESENT:

Alejandro 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
Ana Sandoval, Workforce Development Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Peavy called the meeting to order at 1:06 after a quorum was established.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Peavy asked the Board members to review the meeting minutes from December 13. Mr. McMurry made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Peavy seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

D. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

1. Ready to Work Program Update

Mr. Ramsey mentioned that this is Doug McMurry's last meeting as an Advisory Board member. Mr. Ramsey thanked him for being a critical part of Ready to Work from the inception of the Board. Mr. Peavy also personally thanked Mr. McMurry for his work and the tremendous support he gave to the Board.

Mr. Ramsey presented a participant success story of Lisa Turner, who enrolled in Ready to Work through the WSA Consortium and Family Service. He then presented current data on the Ready to Work pipeline. This included the program goals for the next year, and which trainings participants have chosen so far.

Mr. Ramsey introduced and discussed the forthcoming pilot program to allow all military-connected individuals within Bexar County to enroll in Ready to Work. General Juan Ayala, the Director of the City's Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, expressed his support for the pilot and for the Ready to Work program.

Ms. Ana Sandoval discussed the release date of the digitized Ready to Work training catalog, along with the features and advantages of having the catalog digitized.

Mr. Ramsey then discussed the Ready to Work paid internship pilot, in which pledged employers receive funding for interns' wages. Through this model, employers can host a meaningful internship, and pay back their wages received into the City workforce fund if the employer hires the respective intern. The new Ready to Work tagline was also presented to the Board, which is "Ready to Work: Learn. Earn. Succeed."

Mr. Ramsey reminded the Board of its three vacancies, for Higher Education/Training Provider representative, Trade/Labor representative, and Community representative. All applicants will be considered along with the existing board member renewals, as the current Board term ends May 31st.

2. Jobs for the Future's January Community of Practice Update

Ms. Erica Acevedo of Jobs for the Future provided an overview on agreed key pillars of employer engagement, opportunities presented at the Employer Engagement Community of Practice, and the plan to centralize employer-specific data on the CoP website.

The Board members discussed their role in the ongoing in the employer engagement efforts, and other opportunities to improve employer engagement in the program. Mr. Peavy thanked Ms. Acevedo for JFF's presentation.

3. Subcommittee Updates

Ms. Amanda Wright summarized the developments from the previous two Community Outreach Subcommittee meetings, which included an increase in new users to the Ready to Work website and the upcoming Community Champion meeting on April 11th.

Ms. Jennifer Cantu asked Ms. Romanita Matta-Barrera to give an update of the work that the Employer Engagement Subcommittee has done, specifically the work in getting Talent Pipeline

