

**SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 28, 2022  
1:00pm - 3:00pm**

**City Tower Large Conference Room 10.W1003**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brad Beldon  
Jennifer Cantu  
Jerry Graeber  
Doug McMurry  
Ben Peavy  
Amanda Wright

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Daphene Carson  
Sonia Garza  
Peter John Holt  
Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia  
Councilmember Manny Pelaez

**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**

Mr. Graeber called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. after quorum was established.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chef Johnny Hernandez came to remind the group that the hospitality industry is one of the largest employers within our community. The hospitality industry needs help because it is still trying to get back to normal, unlike other industries that have thrived during the pandemic.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Graeber asked members to review the Advisory Board meeting minutes of March 24, 2022. Mr. McMurry moved to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Peavy 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 introduced the new Board members Brad Beldon, Jennifer Cantu, and Amanda Wright. He then informed the members of the Ready to Work Press Conference, scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>. He then discussed the recent funding requests that WDO has recently responded to recently, namely a grant through Apprenticeships Building America. The apprenticeship pathways lead to target occupations for good paying jobs. WDO has also submitted an appropriations request through Congressman Tony Gonzales' office to expand eligibility for Ready to Work to include service members and their spouses. These individuals currently are not eligible due to their residency on-base.

### **2. Subcommittee Updates**

Ms. Cantu asked Mr. Ramsey what the intent of the May 16<sup>th</sup> press conference is. Mr. Ramsey stated that this event will be the first opportunity for the public to engage with the program and join in on the launch.

Mr. McMurry asked if more support is needed in further conversations with Tony Gonzales' office, and he also asked if he can receive a draft of the communication sent to him. Ms. Contreras stated that she believes the request WDO provided was enough for now, but would welcome such support in the future.

The members briefly discussed the Signify platform, and how partners will coordinate keeping program data in their own systems while simultaneously reporting in Signify. WDO staff explained that payment to the agencies is tied to Signify reporting, so they have a strong incentive to maintain their records there.

Mr. McMurry, as chair of the Community Outreach Subcommittee, reported out on the meeting from April 12<sup>th</sup>, stating that the group had a great discussion with Creative Noggin on marketing, and amongst the Subcommittee members on participant barriers, grassroots outreach efforts, and prospective Ready to Work dashboard metrics.

Mr. Peavy, as acting chair of the Employer Engagement Subcommittee, stated that the Subcommittee is looking to add 2 more members, and will soon be selecting another meeting date so that the Subcommittee has more time between its own meeting and the Advisory Board meeting to make progress on action items raised by Subcommittee members.

### **3. Discussion on Program Recommendations: In-Demand Occupations, Training Program Alignment, Certificate and Degree Program Allotment, Wraparound Support Levels, and Community Outreach.**

Mr. Ramsey reminded the Board members that along with the budget approval, the annual program recommendations that the Board votes on will also be presented to City Council soon. Mr. Ramsey also explained that the Approved Course Catalog will be published on the Ready to

Work website, and will be updated quarterly. The other items that the Board is charged with providing recommendations on are the allotment of degrees and certificates, and the level of wraparound services provided by the program, including emergency funding and social service referrals.

#### **4. Overview of SA: Ready to Work Fiscal Year 2023 Budget.**

Mr. Ramsey explained the approval process for the annual Ready to Work budget. He stated that program enrollment will continue through December 2025, with the program sunsetting at the end of 2027 as individuals complete their degree or obtain their certificate training programs. He then mentioned that the participant funding cap for certificate programs is a \$5,000 one-time cap per participant. For associate's degree programs, the cap is \$2,200, and for bachelor's degree program, it is \$4,100.

#### **E. STAFF MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Ramsey reminded the members that Board meetings will be held bi-monthly moving forward. He also invited the Board members to suggest any alternative meeting locations that follow ADA guidelines.

#### **F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Graeber and Ms. Cantu requested individual demonstrations of the Ready to Work Intake Portal and Signify platform outside of the Advisory Board meeting.

#### **G. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 2:54pm.

#### **APPROVED:**

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