
Welcome/ Member Sharing

• Monroe County
  o Hanif Abdul-Wahid retired from the County
  o 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
  o RWI thanks you both for your many years of partnership on SYEP, Proposal Review Committee, etc.

• RW Career Center Updates
  o E-learning website available on RWI website: https://elearning.rochesterworks.org/
    ▪ Professional Development
    ▪ Youth/ Jobseekers training available to
    ▪ Preparation for Virtual Interview training
  o Workforce GPS
    ▪ Workforce development- anyone can create an account
    ▪ Different community youth programs listed
    ▪ Workshops available
    ▪ COVID Updates/ Resources available
  o 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
  o 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

• ACCE-VR
  o New orientation videos posted on website
  o 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 varies 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](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](mailto:tjordan@rochesterworks.org)

**Next Meeting- Thursday, March 11, 2021**