

Proposed Meeting Minutes
CAREER & EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Monday, November 23, 2020

Location: Zoom Meeting

Chair: Tonya Allen

Co-Chair: Alycia Meriweather

Attendees:

Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Dana Williams, Diane Antishin, Dr. Curtis Avery, Chardae Caine, Monique Ellis, Mark Gaffney, Omar Hasan, Dana Hughes, Nicole Jackson, Randy Liepa, Robert Shimkoski, & Ron Stallworth

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

The meeting of the Career & Education Advisory Council was called to order at 10:06am by Co-Chairperson Meriweather.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Chairperson Allen thanked the staff for a robust agenda and mentioned that this is a pivotal movement in history when the council can consider not only virtual experiences, but in-person services and learning opportunities as well. She charged the council with helping to curate strategies that can help in expanding effectiveness.

Co-Chair Meriweather stated that this is a multi-layered pandemic that has significantly impacted the marginalized. She charged the council with answering the question. “how do we reach the unreachable?”

61b CEAC Strategic Intent

The council discussed which career clusters CEAC should focus on moving forward. In 2019, the five clusters were Health Science, Manufacturing, Architecture and Construction, Information Technology, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. There was discussion about considering Education and Trainers as a career cluster in the future, due to it being a new high priority for the region. No new data was shared. However, the council approved maintaining the five clusters. The council will also need to reconcile Detroit-specific data, and Detroit MSA data and requested this data be presented at an upcoming meeting by DPSCD.

Old Business

Meeting Recap:

O. Hasan a recap of the September discussion. The council discussed the impact of COVID on learning and learning outcomes, both for those in and out of school. The key takeaways from the discussion were: a desire to improve soft skills development in youth, an increased focus on career pathways and exploration, and quality of programming. There was also a desire to survey employer partners. D. Williams stated that the design is in process and the core interest areas of focus would be on workforce management and COVID-19 response.

- M. Gaffney mentioned that he would like to see data on employers who will have people remaining at home permanently and on employers who see this as an opportunity to reduce their workforce. Dana added that asking what the mix of employment would like moving forward (part time, seasonal, temporary) would be included in the survey.
- D. Antishin said a challenge her company is facing is communication and collaboration.
- R. Stallworth said with some coming in once per week, keeping staff members engaged has been a concern, but no permanent decisions have been made.
- Dr. Ivery added to the conversation by saying that health sciences is where he is seeing money being spent on additional faculty and more equipment and is a place that needs expansion.
- R. Liepa stated that working with universities on teacher preparation programs and forecasting based on key takeaways needs to be a focus. There should also be a focus on seniors who are graduating and need help with post-graduation plans.
- N. Sherard-Freeman moderated a panel of small business who need employees who can coordinate logistics of delivery, curbside delivery, website presence, knowing about the continual changes surrounding e-commerce, and assisting in supply management.

New Business

Current State of Virtual Learning:

Co-Chair Meriweather discussed the challenge of bringing community into the virtual space. She addressed that the district has implemented wellness checks and home visits in order to promote physical and mental well-being of teachers and students. Liepa added that students also need virtual career exploration options. Meriweather said that unlike the spring when students received packets and grades were suspended, this fall students are receiving assignments and grading is being conducted, even if it might look differently. Liepa informed the council that universities are taking the grading barriers into consideration for acceptance into their schools. As of now, DPSCD schools will begin opening again January 11th and learning centers may also open to provide more support. The data will continue to be monitored. Dr. Ivery said there is no uniformity across universities.

2021 Planning

Committee members were asked the following questions:

1. In what ways, if at all, should the impact of 2020 influence this table's direction?
2. Given the impacts of COVID on education and economic opportunity, in what ways should we consider supporting students and out of school youth?
 - R. Liepa suggested a focus on immediate needs to keep students on track, not just for a focus on school completion, but also for their post-graduation transition.
 - Co-chair Meriweather added that we should also help those who are on track with staying encouraged.
 - Dr. Ivery offered an idea to offer dual enrollment opportunities as an incentive for encouragement.
 - Co-chair Meriweather added that there are opportunities that did not exist previously. Even the CTE program is virtual and there can be live streaming of on-the-job interactions. She also noted that online learning would be a choice for the foreseeable future, even with a vaccine.

- R. Stallworth added that reimagining what is possible when the weather breaks, regarding outdoor learning and work, should also be taken into consideration.
- N. Sherard-Freeman added that the council should also ask parents what children need. Monique responded that while her child received a laptop from Connected Futures, she ended up getting another monitor because he was tired from looking at the small screen for the school day in its entirety.
- N. Sherard-Freeman also mentioned that she has considered expanding GDYT from job-readiness skills only, to including some academic-skill building into the program. Meriweather said some intervention and strengthening would help students. She also mentioned that the diversity of the council is helpful in this decision-making. Liepa was supportive of the inclusion of academic-skill building as a value-add for the GDYT program.

Next Steps:

Co-Chair Meriweather will collaborate with Nicole Sherard-Freeman and staff to synthesize the discussion. DPSCD will gather data related to workforce focus for the CEAC's Strategic Intent. Nicole Sherard and staff will continue to explore opportunities for incorporating academic skill-building into the GDYT 2021 programming.

Public Comment:

There were no attendees from the public present.

Motion to Adjourn:

Co-Chair Meriweather made a motion to adjourn at 12:28PM. Motion carried unanimously.