

**Minutes of the Maricopa County Workforce Development Board Youth Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.**

**REMOTE MEETING**

**WebEx: <https://mcwdb-1095-9b71.my.webex.com/meet/mcwdb>**

**Phone: 1-510-338-9438; Access Code/Meeting ID: 625 125 871**

**Members Present:** Breanne Bushu (Ph.), Elizabeth E. Cole (Ph.), Felix Moran (Ph.), Pedro Huerta (Ph.), Sherie Steele (Ph.), Susan Morris (Ph.), Traci Ayre (Ph.)

**Members Absent:** Shawn Hutchinson

**Call to Order**

Youth Committee Chair, Elizabeth Cole, called the MCWDB Youth Committee meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

**Roll Call and Welcome**

**Role Call and Opening Comments**

WDB Liaison Nancy Avina took roll. Quorum was present.

Chair Cole provided brief welcoming remarks and gave new committee members the opportunity to introduce themselves. Breanne Bushu, Director of Policy and Communications at Achieve60 and Sherie Steele, Family and Youth Services Manager for the City of Peoria briefly introduced themselves. Chair Cole recognized public attendees and provided brief open meeting reminders.

**Consent Agenda**

Chair Cole asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Traci Ayre made a motion to approve. Susan Morris seconded the motion.

**In favor:** Elizabeth E. Cole (Ph.), Felix Moran (Ph.), Pedro Huerta (Ph.), Sherie Steele (Ph.), Susan Morris (Ph.), Traci Ayre (Ph.)

**Opposed:** None.

**Abstained:** Breanne Bushu (Ph.)

**The motion carried.**

**Youth Committee Chair Report**

**Update on MCWDB Recertification and compliance**

Chair Cole provided a timeline report of activities occurring over the summer at a Full Board level, to achieve re-certification and compliance, including on:

- Ongoing focused efforts of the Full Board and Executive Committee towards WIOA Compliance issues required to receive re-certification
- Letter received on August 11<sup>th</sup>, by the BOS from the DES on lack of compliance.
- Removal of Mark Lashinske, Chairman of the MCWDB on August 17<sup>th</sup> and election of the new Interim Chairman, Matt McGuire on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Review of correcting action plan and formation of a Compliance Advisory Workgroup on August 26<sup>th</sup> and meeting activity.
- September 10<sup>th</sup> communication from Chairman McGuire regarding Patricia Wallace no longer serving as the Executive Director and staffing plan.

**Youth Committee Status**

Chair Cole informed the youth committee status is still worked out and is contained as part of the Shared Governance Agreement. She expressed the hope that by next month pieces would be resolved.

## **Presentation and Q/A Employer Perspective - Youth as Essential Workers During COVID-19 - A Report from the Frontlines**

Chair Cole provided introductory remarks regarding the slated presentations as well as, on COVID-19 impacts, including on mental health.

Division Human Resources Senior Field Trainer, Talent Management, Traci Ayre informed from an Employer perspective on front line workers and mental wellness during the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically for youth and opportunity youth. Ms. Ayre additionally shared on impacts of the pandemic including on youth applicants decrease, application withdrawals due to fears as well as, initiatives to protect associates. Challenges and struggles were shared as well as, efforts to continue the hiring of youth.

Youth committee members expressed comments of appreciation. Discussion held on struggles and best practices, including the creation of a app for mental wellness.

## **Presentation and Q/A Achieve60 & Strategic Overlap with Youth Workforce Development**

Director, Policy & Communications, Breanne Bushu, provided a presentation on the organization Achieve60. Ms. Bushu reviewed the goal of her organization, for 60% Adults to have some sort of credential/degree by 2030 and raise attainment rates. She shared information on Achieve60's current data, initiatives and goals; and a state of attainment report released on an annual basis. Ms. Bushu also spoke to projects Achieve60 is currently working on.

Takeaway comments were provided by Chair Cole. Discussion held on availability of testing for GED and the landscape of testing.

## **Presentation ad Q/A Opportunity Youth in Pandemic Times: A Decade of Work Undone?**

Youth Outreach Coordinator, Felix Moran spoke from an Opportunities for Youth perspective and what was being done prior to COVID-19 vs. new initiatives and partnerships. Mr. Moran shared a personal experience on mental health and what is being done to encourage youth. Discussion held on COVID-19 Disengaging Youth brief report, mental health and best practices.

## **Youth Committee Discussion of what we'd like to hear from the service provider**

Chair Cole briefly touched upon the WDD youth quarterly report and what committee members would like to hear next month from the youth service provider. Discussion included: How is the youth service provider getting into the community to really impact numbers and trends? And what can Employers/Committees do better to look at different ways/approaches to find disengaged youth, including approaching ways differently (i.e. community centers, schools, etc.). Chair Cole expressed interest in virtual sessions for Maricopa County Adult education providers about the services provided by WDD and get a co-enrollment process going. Chair Cole also expressed interest in seeing individual performance by vendor.

WDD Assistant Director, Tom Colombo, expressed openness to revamp quarterly reports. He also shared brief comments on outreach key components. Brief comments shared by committee members.

## **Call to the Public**

Chair Cole called for public comment. WDD Assistant Director, Tom Colombo, informed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row ARIZONA@WORK Maricopa County did not return funds to the State and all required funding was spent; additional background was provided.

Chair Cole asked Sheri Steele to present from a City perspective and Pedro Huerta from an educational provider perspective.

## **Adjourn Meeting**

Chair Cole adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

*\*For More Information Contact MCWDB Staff at: [MCWDB@maricopa.gov](mailto:MCWDB@maricopa.gov)*