GWDB Racial Equity in Education, Training and Employment Committee Minutes

Tuesday, June 12, 2018 – 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

DEED – Lakes Conference Room

332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

**Members Present:**

* Mariaha Dean, Chair – conference call
* Patrice Bailey
* Anjuli Cameron – conference call
* Lorrie Janatopoulos
* Henry Jimenez
* Kati Neher
* Heather McGannon – conference call

**Guests**

* Deven Bowdry, DEED
* Patricia Fenrick, DHS
* Rachel Vilsack, DEED

**GWDB Staff Present**

* Connie Ireland
* Lisa Snyder
* Kay Kammen

**Call to Order**

Chair Mariaha Dean called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Introductions of members on the conference call and in person.

Connie Ireland announced that Rick Roy, DEED’s Director of Workforce System Coordination, has accepted a new position as Manager of Workforce Programs with Washington County. She thanked Lisa Snyder for her work as staff to the Racial Equity Committee. She explained that Lisa is taking on some new projects and responsibilities and Kay Kammen, Sr. Policy Analyst with the GWDB, will be the staff point person for the Equity Committee going forward.

**Approval of Minutes**

May 8, 2018 minutes were approved. Lorrie Janatopoulos noted that she was at the May meeting in person. She motioned to approve the minutes with correction and Henry Jimenez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Gender Definition Discussion**

Mariaha Dean thanked Lisa for including a mention of gender in the May minutes. She deferred to Connie to give an update on a gender definition requested by Governor Dayton. She told the committee that there is a standard definition under WIOA used by DEED’s Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity. A definition has been drafted for review by Commissioner Hardy. The process is for the definition to go to each of the GWDB committees. Input from committees will go to the Operations Committee before the quarterly GWDB meeting in September. Once a response is received from the Commissioner, the definition will be presented to the Executive Committee. Upon Executive Committee approval, it will go out to all committee membership. Committee members will have an opportunity to weigh in on the definition before it is finalized.

Chair Dean said it appears to be a structured process with input from committees yet not a significant amount of work needs to be done on this. “We will look for a July-August timeframe.”

**Latino Ethnic Council Presentation**

As Executive Director of the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA), Henry Jimenez hopes to provide ways to improve economic outcomes for Latinos throughout the state. Latinos have the highest labor force participation rate in Minnesota, yet they often have low median incomes, high health disparities, and high educational gaps.

Listening sessions were convened in eight communities, attended by 108 Latino individuals. Attendees were 90 percent women and 70 percent of those who responded to surveys were women. Six research questions were developed based on staff and meeting attendee input; Community profiles and legislative recommendations followed. Three return visits have been conducted during the past year with an Engagement Report given out to community members who contributed to it.

The MCLA is non-partisan, with its policy liaisons sometimes reframing policy so it has a chance of being passed. Legislative fact sheets are provided to all state senators and representatives for their districts.

“Even if you’re undocumented, your legislator still needs to meet with you.”

In closing, he said the State’s ethnic councils have limited financial resources to do this work and print reports and other materials yet, “We have become a trusted source of information. The Department of Labor & Industry and the Governor’s Office have expressed interest in our work.”

Questions and comments from committee members followed. Discussion centered on wage discrepancies and assessment of immigrants’ fields of study not correlating with the work they are doing in this country.

Lorrie Janatopoulos told the committee about a *One Minnesota Equity Blueprint* event on June 27-29 in Granite Falls (see attached information) that may be of interest to committee members.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Standing agenda item – Matrix from DEED’s Office of Economic Equity and Opportunity**

**DEED Youth and Indian Affairs Council presentations scheduled for July 10 meeting**

**GWDB quarterly business meeting tomorrow, June 13 at Department of Corrections**

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

The next meeting of the GWDB Racial Equity Committee will be from 1*:00 – 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10 in the Lakes Conference Room at DEED Headquarters, 332 Minnesota St., Suite E200, St. Paul.*