

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

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### *EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH*

Workforce Development Area 21 –EmployBR  
4523 Plank Road  
Baton Rouge, La 70805  
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017  
1:00 P.M. – 1:50 P.M.

### **CONFERENCE CALL**

*(JUMP START and Other Business)*

The Youth and Young Adult Committee members participated in a conference call at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, June 22, 2017, to briefly discuss and make recommendations on the following:

- \*Jump Start
- \*Youth and Young Adult Committee Membership
- \*Other Business

Committee Members Present for the call: Robin Heath, Monica Brown

Committee Members Absent: Deron Patin (Martha Hulbert), Roxson Welch, Kelly LeDuff

Staff: Cynthia Douglas, Greg DeClouet (Contract), Carole Miller, Dana Campbell

1. Jump Start – Mr. Greg DeClouet briefed the members on the JUMP START initiative. Mr. Declouet and Ms. Dedra Jackson initially presented the JUMP START initiative to the Board in 2016.

The JUMP START discussion focused on the initiative between the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Louisiana Department of Education to identify and maximize opportunities for Louisiana's youth to attain industry-based credentials (IBCs) in high-demand industries. The program initially began as a grant program through the Department of Education. Local Workforce Development Boards have been asked to partner with their local JUMP START programs to create committees and reach the following goals:

- (1) To identify pathways supported by area high schools; and (2) to identify the number of IBCs earned by students (and teachers) in the region each year.

2. **Committee Membership** - Ms. Douglas and Mr. DeClouet recommended that the Youth and Young Adult Committee serve as the JUMP START Committee. It was further suggested that the overall membership of the Youth and Young Adult Committee increased to 10 – 15 members. Further, the membership should focus on business and industry representatives.

Robin Heath suggested that apprenticeship programs should definitely be included in the focus of the committee's work. The suggestion was made that Jonathan Waddall and Heather Stefan provide input in this area.

Monica Brown suggested that credentials that led to employment in medical facilities were in great demand. It was suggested that Cheri Ausberry and Anne Segura provide input in this area.

Mr. DeClouet emphasized that the Department of Education needs the Workforce Development Boards' input. The Workforce Development Boards provide direct access to key industry leaders.

It was noted that LWDA 20 has suggested two distinct JUMP START initiatives for Region 2, at this time. This was based on the diverse (urban and rural) and number of parishes within this workforce area. It was suggested by Ms. Jackson that in the future, Region 2 create one initiative.

Robin Heath stated that she would locate contact information for gentleman from Turner Industries who she says has been working with the high schools to identify opportunities for employment within the construction industry.

Greg DeClouet suggested that a Chamber member also be involved with the JUMP START initiative. Andrew Fitzgerald, Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) board representative and former board member Elizabeth Smith will be contacted regarding BRAC participation.

Greg DeClouet stated he will find out who the original Regional Jump Start members were and if they would like to become members of the committee again.

3. **Other Business:**

Making A Positive Step (MAPS) Program – The MAPS program will end prior to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Work experience is an ongoing Youth Program element and will continue after

the MAPS initiative has ended. The program engaged over 100 youth and young adults in work experience activities.

Goodwill - The Goodwill program has continued to experience challenges in engaging youth in their program. EMPLOY BR will schedule a meeting with the Goodwill representatives to discuss and provide assistance in overcoming this challenge for the program. The committee and full board will be updated periodically on their progress.

Cynthia Douglas and Greg DeClouet continue to review possible candidates for recommendation to the chair regarding committee membership. Members of the board and the existing Youth and Young Adult Committee will be encouraged to also provide input regarding membership.

\*The conference call ended at 2:01 p.m.

*Cynthia H. Douglas*

*6-23-2017*