

Minutes of the regular meeting of the
COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP
10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 27, 2017
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
33 Liberty Street, New York, NY

Present:

Kate Fish, Executive Director, ANCA
Eduardo Carrera, President, Boys & Girls Clubs of Puerto Rico
J. Michael Armstrong, CEO, Community Hope
Claas Ehlers, President, Family Promise
Jessamyn Waldman Rodriguez, Founder and CEO, Hot Bread Kitchen
Michael Martin, Executive Director, Native American Community Services
Deyanira Del Rio, Co-Director, New Economy Project
Stuart J. Mitchell, President and CEO, PathStone
Diosdado Gica, Chief Program Officer, SAGE
William Goodloe, President and CEO, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity
Mae Watson Grote, Founder and CEO, The Financial Clinic
Joseph Carbone, President and CEO, the WorkPlace

Federal Reserve Bank of New York attendees:

William Dudley
Michael Strine
Jack Gutt
Anand Marri
Giorgio Topa
Robert Rich
Jason Bram
Julia Gouny
Adrian Franco
Tony Davis
Justine Hansen
Marisa Casellas-Barnes

Adrian Franco, Officer, Outreach and Education called the meeting to order at 10:30am

Robert Rich, AVP, Research and Statistics presented a high level overview of the current state of the U.S. economy.

Jason Bram, Officer, Research and Statistics presented a regional economy overview.

Giorgio Topa, Vice President, Research and Statistics, shared the findings of a study on job search behavior based on the New York Fed's Survey of Consumer Expectations. He presented on the search process and characteristics of job offers outcomes for individuals regardless of employment status.

During the lunch portion of the meeting, Bill Dudley, President and Michael Strine, First Vice President welcomed the members. Two members of the Community Advisory Group presented on trends within workforce development in East Harlem and Bridgeport, Connecticut: Jessamyn Waldman Rodriguez, Hot Bread Kitchen; and Joseph Carbone, the WorkPlace.

Jessamyn Waldman Rodriguez, Hot Bread Kitchen cited factors that contribute to clients securing full-time and part-time employment opportunities after completing the organization's training programs. Also, Ms. Waldman Rodriguez highlighted how Hot Bread Kitchen's job training programs contributed to developing the clients's skills: both soft-skills and technical skills.

Joseph Carbone, the WorkPlace, reported on obstacles to employment that various populations, including those with disabilities and long-term unemployed, face in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Mr. Carbone also highlighted employment and training programs implemented by the WorkPlace.

After the presentations from the two members serving communities in East Harlem and Bridgeport, the other 10 members provided brief presentations wherein they cited the challenges for their clients in securing part-time and full-time employment opportunities; and the obstacles that they observe in their community with regard to effective workforce readiness and placement programs. The major trends and challenges presented were related to secure and reliable childcare, the alignment of training programs with employer demand, mental health issues of the long-term unemployed; constant changes in scheduling of work hours; legal issues of veterans, access to reliable transportation; role of sexual orientation, race, gender and disability in hiring practices; employers using credit history to assess candidates; gap between average wages and living wages and the relative impact on employment retention and advancement; lack of soft skills; and apprehension from low and moderate income individuals to join the workforce due to loss of benefits.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45pm.