

Work-A-Day Earn-A-Pay Task Force

148th General Assembly
November 4, 2015
Capital One Conference Room, 2nd Floor
Alexander Graham Bell Building
1 S. Orange St., Wilmington, DE

Meeting Attendance

Task Force Members

Present	Email	Phone
George Krupanski, Chair	Gkrupanski@bgclubs.org	302.658.1870
Representative Michael Mulrooney	Michael.Mulrooney@state.de.us	302.744.4351
Senator Robert Marshall	Robert.Marshall@state.de.us	302.577.8744
Senator Bryant Richardson	Bryant.Richardson@state.de.us	302.744.4298

Absent

Senator David Sokola	David.Sokola@state.de.us	302.744.4286
Rev. Donald Morton	donald@themortonfirm.com	302.658.9883
Patricia Cannon	Patricia.Cannon@state.de.us	302.577.8485
Mark Kleinschmidt	kleinschmidt@ncccc.com	302.294.2068

Staff

Katrina Cowart	Katrina.Cowart@state.de.us	302.577.8718
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Attendees

	Organization	Phone
Elder Tyrone Johnson	CTAC	302.420.7889
Stacey Scott	Ministry of Caring	302.428.3702
Eric Stewart	Hope's Academy	302.781.2682
Wilkie Miller	Hope's Academy	302.252.1325
Ernest Owusu	Hope Housing	302.981.9187
Raymond Goode	Star Hill AME Church	302.222.3403
Trudi Scheurer	Assistant to Senator Marshall	267.732.2412
Abeel Hamin	Delaware Juneteenth Obs. Com.	302.656.2446
Kwame Solomon	Hope's Academy	917.815.2730
Mrs. Solomon	Hope's Academy	N/A
Shaun (Hope) Bellamy	Hope's Academy	215.253.1898
Swiyah Whittington	Hope's Academy	302.252.8415

Mr. George Krupanski called the meeting to order at 10:35 A.M.

Mr. Krupanski stated that the Task Force would hold on consideration of the minutes from the October 28, 2015 meeting for majority of task force members. He identified a memo from Ms. Jeanine Kleimo, Elder Johnson, and a mission statement submitted by Senator Marshall. He continued to discuss the main tasks and goals of the Task Force in shaping the WDEP Pilot Program.

Senator Marshall discussed the purpose of the mission statement submitted to the Task Force. He continued to identify several organizations either present at the meeting or present in the community that could be involved with the WDEP Pilot Program.

Mr. Krupanski discussed the mission statement submitted by Senator Marshall. He then yielded to Senator Marshall to discuss the idea of “de-automation”.

Senator Marshall discussed his idea of de-automation related to the exchange of automated services (i.e. street cleaning machines), that have replaced human labor, back to employing people in such positions. He suggested it may be an argument for a national or state debate, but suggested that it applied to Wilmington as well. He also identified an article from the Albuquerque Journal titled “New Outreach Set for Panhandlers in Albuquerque.” He discussed the similarities between Albuquerque’s program to the WDEP Pilot Program concept. He also identified the state and federal income tax exemptions for low-income residents.

Mr. Krupanski identified a line from Ms. Kleimo’s memo that mentioned an income was taxable at an amount of \$600.00 or more from a single source of income. He suggested that this issue would need to be further examined to understand the taxing mechanisms and how that related to the program.

Elder Johnson identified the recent shootings that occurred in Wilmington, Del. and the CDC study that examined gun violence in the City of Wilmington. He continued to discuss his recommendations that would be submitted to the Task Force based on the mission, purpose, target groups, and how the program could operate as well as measuring progress and outcomes.

Mr. Krupanski thanked Elder Johnson for his recommendations and identified the training and educational component that many Task Force members have proposed. He continued to identify the limited resources and short timeline and the feasibility of implementing such ideas through the program. He then suggested that partnering with organizations would be the most efficient way to implement training and education.

Senator Marshall cautioned the Task Force to ensure transparency and realistic expectations through the program in order to reach the individuals that are in need of the program.

Mr. Krupanski identified the need to keep the Pilot Program simple in order to grow.

Representative Mulrooney supported Mr. Krupanski’s and Senator Marshall’s previous comments. He identified that WDEP could be added to tax forms in order to allow

donations. He also identified that the organizations Habitat for Humanity and East Side Rising were beginning to work on vacant units in the City of Wilmington. He discussed how technology had displaced workers and how that impacted society.

Mr. Hope Bellamy identified prison system employment in Kent County that implemented positions doing projects similar to those proposed by WDEP. He also discussed creating businesses and making participants employable in order to ensure sustainability.

Senator Richardson identified Herb Lusk, a Reverend from Philadelphia that had implemented a similar program to the WDEP concept. He suggested that it would be beneficial to hear success stories as well as connect with local organizations. He alluded to his previous employment in a factory and the decline in manufacturing. He also identified opportunities in the service industry and beginning businesses and mentioned the success of Hobby Lobby and Subway as businesses that began small and grew. He continued to discuss the idea of young people and students beginning with ideas and implementing them in order to grow and succeed. He explained that the program should also inspire young people to pursue their ideas and the importance of mentoring.

Raymond Goode supported Elder Johnson's previous comments regarding County specific tasks and projects and also identifying such projects within each County to implement the program.

Mr. Krupanski discussed the pressure of the timeline and the need to put forth recommendations. He summarized items that the Task Force has discussed that needed to be agreed upon, such as a statewide program, the program would be open to men and women, the age groups to be included (i.e. age seventeen as a minimum to no age limit).

Elder Johnson explained why he suggested examining age groups, his work with the corrections system, and how that ties into the program and opportunities to disadvantaged populations. He also mentioned the idea of mentoring.

Mr. Krupanski suggested that the type of work that had been identified could affect different age groups.

Elder Johnson supported Mr. Krupanski's statement.

Mr. Krupanski identified Elder Johnson's recommendations and confirmed that Senator Richardson would reach out to Reverend Lusk for information about their program. He also identified Ms. Kleimo's comments submitted to the Task Force and requested for the Task Force to review them.

Task Force members also discussed setting up a meeting with Reverend Lusk in the future, post Senator Richardson's contact with him.

Mr. Krupanski opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment:

Mr. Eric Stewart discussed the idea of de-automation and Senator Richardson's mention of opening his own business. He explained that he was in the process to start his own cleaning company and collaborating with Hope's Academy and also discussed the positive impact he hoped to have on the youth in the community. He identified pursuing park clean ups and other endeavors through his business and his willingness to partner with the WDEP program.

Elder Johnson suggested incorporating community service in the program in the future as well, especially for previously incarcerated individuals.

Ms. Wilkia Miller discussed the need to help youth and identified the need to provide activities for youth such as the Boys & Girls Clubs. She also discussed providing guidance for youth.

Ernest Owusu discussed his experience as a nurse at Meadowood and the cycle of people being at the hospital and then returning to the street. He discussed his business Hope Housing Foundation that helps such populations have housing and he identified the need in Wilmington.

Mr. Krupanski and Senator Marshall asked Mr. Owusu about his business and services.

Mr. Owusu explained the types of services provided such as counseling along with the housing. He identified that both locations were in Newark, Del.

Senator Marshall identified the needs to locate organizations and non-profits currently working directly with disadvantaged populations and the need for a foundation and a hiring program to provide opportunity. He continued to discuss an idea for a local government to create a construction company that was taxpayer owned in order to renovate and maintain currently vacant homes throughout the State. He also discussed the private-public partnerships involved in home renovation, but expressed the need for a new initiative.

Mr. Krupanski supported Senator Marshall's previous comment and expressed the need to identify partnerships throughout the State, and also possibly creating a resource manual or guide.

Mr. Bellamy discussed the need to examine hiring individuals with mental health conditions and the need for resources for mental health throughout the State and specifically in the program. He identified the issue of young adults committing crimes that are seventeen or eighteen years old, whom are still in school but could have a job after school in order to provide structure and impact the youth throughout the State. He also discussed Senator Marshall's previous comment regarding a local government construction company and inquired further about that idea.

Senator Marshall discussed the concept further and also identified similar organizations already operating in the State, such as the Diamond State Port Corporation.

The Task Force members discussed the idea of extending the Task Force meetings, but also the importance of providing recommendations to the Governor in order to implement the Pilot Program.

Ms. Swiyah Whittington identified the issue of many felons or people with criminal backgrounds that have underlying mental health issues that have been in and out of prison as well as mental health facilities. She explained the need for mental health services. She continued to identify incorporating technology projects along with manual labor positions.

Senator Marshall suggested that the program needed to maintain a narrow goal in order for the program to be feasible. He identified the need to create opportunity for people to earn a paycheck and eventually grow the program to provide projects and services mentioned.

Mr. Krupanski identified that Ms. Whittington's point was valid and the idea of implementing screening or referrals into the program.

Elder Johnson mentioned his recommendations and the need for people to meet program expectations along with being willing. He emphasized the need to provide an assessment tool.

Senator Marshall Senator Marshall requested that Elder Johnson further describe the assessment tool.

Elder Johnson described what the assessment process could entail, such as asking specific questions and keeping a record of participants. He identified that the assessment could be short, but would allow the program to provide an assessment to evaluate participants.

Senator Marshall asked who would provide the assessment and what would make such an assessment valid.

Elder Johnson suggested that a program coordinator could provide the assessment, with a working knowledge of specific requirements and screening.

Mr. Bellamy suggested temp. agencies could be involved as well.

Mr. Abeel Hamin identified himself and asked questions regarding the problem being addressed, who the target population was, what the goals of the program are, and how long the program would be.

Mr. Krupanski stated that the Task Force was trying to identify the answers to such questions. He suggested that the Task Force has established some agreement regarding those questions, and identified those facets such as the program being similar to the old Conservation Corp., unemployed individuals, and further described the characteristics and goals of the program. He concluded that the Task Force was still trying to identify the answers to such questions.

Representative Mulrooney suggested that the Task Force should write their thoughts down for the next meeting, and identified the need to identify goals, purpose, a timeline and target populations for the program.

Senator Richardson identified that large amounts of money were being spent on education and the need to educate people to be successful in life. He also discussed the idea of providing inspiration in the classroom.

Ms. Miller identified the need to provide jobs for Delaware high school graduates.

Senator Richardson asked how they could motivate young people to be inspired.

Mr. Stewart explained the idea of leading by example and how that could impact students.

Mr. Goode suggested that the Task Force was becoming bogged down by looking at multiple issues, though he emphasized their importance. He restated the idea of providing a model to identify specific projects within each County of Delaware and targeting specific projects and people in order to keep the program simple in implementation.

Mr. Krupanski supported Mr. Goode's comments. He announced the next meeting for November 18, 2015 at 10:30 A.M. at the same location of the Capital One Alexander Graham Bell Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room. He then proposed that the Task Force consider the meeting minutes from October 28, 2015.

Rep. Mulrooney motioned to accept the meeting minutes from October 28, 2015.

Senator Marshall seconded the motion.

The meeting minutes from October 28, 2015 were passed by all members present.

Mr. Krupanski adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M.