



March 2020

## **SECTOR PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

*To be responsive to the directive to not convene gatherings, the scheduled March 19 sector partnership meeting will be postponed until further notice so that our partners can remain focused on the public health issue at hand and the impact it is having on their daily operations. Thank you for the leadership our community partners are providing to keep everyone safe.*

*Below is the progress you've made since our January 30 meeting.*

### **GOAL: GENERATING AWARENESS**

#### **Strategy: Expose individuals to the variety of occupations in healthcare**

- Partners thought it important to learn about health-related academic programs so they are better equipped to speak with their clients/students. On February 27, 23 partners attended an informational session at Stark State College Akron campus. They learned about the types of responsibilities and aptitudes for several healthcare careers (STNA, LPN, medical assistant, phlebotomist, medical biller), career pathways and the admission requirements and details of the academic programs.
  - *Next steps: encourage clients/students to attend open houses (scheduled open houses have since been cancelled); expand so additional educational partners offer similar events*
- To generate and further develop a talent pipeline, the school/site strategy proposed was – 1) Bring a mobile health unit to the school where it's comfortable for students and perhaps easier for them to engage in healthcare careers, 2) Provide opportunity for students and parents to tour healthcare facility, and 3) Encourage enrollment in healthcare pathways and after school activities to further encourage students to pursue healthcare education and careers.
  - *Next steps: Four Cities Compact is working with Copley school district to support a Fall '20 activity (originally Spring '20) utilizing Cleveland Clinic Akron General's mobile unit as a means for generating interest in healthcare; an introduction to Exploring would be of value so that interested students have extracurricular activities that help them further explore healthcare*
- Discussions have begun with secondary and higher education partners to see how we can deliver a healthcare camp for middle/high school students
  - *Next steps: schedule additional meetings to discuss logistics of a summer or winter break camp*

#### **Strategy: Develop a coordinated campaign to mobilize the community (Neighborhood Strategy)**

- On March 3, over 40 organizations (including six healthcare employers) attended the community's pilot program, R.A.I.S.E., to inform residents in the Buchtel cluster about in-demand occupations, education/training and support services. Feedback from employers indicated that they spoke with several good candidates for entry-level positions and appreciated the small community events. Please note that future workshops and the job fair for March 26 have been cancelled.
- Akron Children's Hospital and Cleveland Clinic Akron General have partnered with the Akron Urban League to provide a neighborhood event to share about their workforce needs on May 28 (tentative).
  - *Next steps: planning meeting to be scheduled with hospitals and Urban League*
- The Middlebury Workforce Coalition, supported by The Well CDC, is building upon their November 7, 2019 event by developing a pilot program that supports 10 individuals getting connected to jobs at Summa Health.

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#### **Goals for Healthcare Sector Partnership**

generate awareness about occupations | cultivate a qualified pool of talent & connect them to employers | increase the number of employees retained & promoted

- *Next steps: work with community organizations to identify 10 participants; identify local resources that can support jobseekers*

## **GOAL: CULTIVATE AND CONNECT QUALIFIED EMPLOYEERS**

### **Strategy: Address jobseekers' barriers to education and employment**

- For the March 19 meeting, Akron Children's Hospital and METRO were invited to share about their initiatives to address barriers. Additional information is found here.
  - *Next steps: Learn more about Akron Children's [Career Launch](#); METRO is currently in their strategic planning process and input is needed about travel needs – please provide input at <https://www.akronmetro.org/strategic-plan.aspx>; METRO is offering free rides effective March 17 until further notice*
- Employers are encouraged to participate in the speaker series at the Akron Urban League to address graduates of PN and RN programs who are preparing for the NCLEX.
  - *Next steps: any employer interested in participating should contact Hope Mills at [hmills@akronurbanleague.org](mailto:hmills@akronurbanleague.org)*
- To address the feedback received from the jobseeker focus groups where they expressed that when working in an entry-level healthcare position they did not feel like they were part of the team or received the support they needed, we have initiated conversations to see who might deliver leadership training to address teamwork, culture, leadership, etc.
  - *Next steps: determine which employers would offer training to their managers; if enough interest, secure organization to deliver training*

### **Other Information**

- A first pass has been made to align industry credentials (from Ohio Department of Education website) to in-demand or hard to fill healthcare occupations. Next steps are to vet by industry to ensure accuracy and to engage school districts who are interested in discussing how this might inform their course offerings.
- ConxusNEO recently submitted an application for the Ohio Industry Sector Partnership Grant to secure funding to support activities supported by our healthcare sector partnership. Thank you partners who provided letters of support!

### **Next Steps** (in addition to those listed above)

- Partners provide [Michelle Collins](#) with feedback/updates based on what they read here and preference on when/how next sector partnership meeting
- Follow-up meetings will be scheduled with partners to maintain momentum and progress towards goals