

**Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force  
Subcommittee for Workforce Development and Education**

4.30 p.m., May 29, 2018

C. Vernon Gray Room

George Howard Building

1. Attending: Maddy Halbach, Marianne Hyang Brackney, Mary Thompson, Hina Naseem, and Kathy Norton. Also in attendance: Phyllis Madachy, Task Force co-chair, and Jeff Meyers, Council staff.
2. Due to a lack of quorum, approval of the minutes was postponed.
3. Laurie Reuben, Cheshire Consulting Group discussed Emotional Intelligence and other soft skills. Her firm consults with companies about organization, training, and leadership training. Her approach is based on emerging research in neuroscience as it relates to emotions, collaboration, leadership, and coaching. The abilities to recognize and manage emotions are the keys to effective management and workplace relationships. These relationship competencies and skills can be developed, a fact that is often overlooked. Research shows that improving soft skills leads to better business results. Teaching soft skills requires weaving the concepts throughout curricula at all grades and requires training teachers. People learn through experiences, so teachers must craft instructions that lead students to reach the desired outcomes. Ms. Rubin provided several practical approaches to training and leadership.
4. Maddy provided the subcommittee with a [table](#) that compiled members' notes on various assigned readings. Additional material is expected to be added to the table in the coming weeks.
5. The subcommittee discussed methods that might be used to develop recommendations. Maddy initially thought the subcommittee might locate and review every public policy affecting the County with the goal of identifying gaps. Ms. Madachy recommended that the subcommittee start with specific issues and see where recommendations for improvements might be made. Marianne suggested that the subcommittee should identify the target populations and which entities serve them. Mary noted that the subcommittee had essentially

already identified themes for which recommendations should be made. Maddy will ask subcommittee members to concentrate on one of the themes:

0-5 Students -- Education

K-12 Education -- Apprenticeships/Internships, Soft skills

18-65 years old -- Mid skill jobs gap

Elderly -- internships/job changers/post retirement careers

6. The meeting broke up at 6:05 p.m.