



Shannon Norton
Executive Director

To: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

From: Shannon Norton, Executive Director/Career Center of Lowell

SUBJECT: MOTION OF 5/22/2018 BY COUNCILOR NUON

REQUEST CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE REPORT ON CHALLENGES AND
SUCSESSES IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOWELL CAREER CENTER AND LOCAL
NON-PROFITS WHO AID IN ADDICTION RECOVERY

The Career Center staff have been working with the local non-profits that work with people who are in recovery. We have successfully recruited clients from Megan's House into our federal workforce programs. We have a referral system with the Lowell House and we are currently working to recruit clients from Zach's House for our federal Out of School Youth program. We are a member of the Greater Lowell Health Alliance's Substance Abuse Task Force and the Lowell Youth Development Collaborative.

To be successful in a job search you must first address any barriers you have to stable employment. We have strong relationships with local organizations that enable our staff to make referrals to services that can address these barriers. We work closely with our local Department of Transitional Assistance office, Community Teamwork, and our local Mass Rehabilitation Office. The challenge that we have with this population is addressing barriers such as transportation, and criminal background issues. We have been looking into the Federal Bonding Program from the Department of Labor. This program bonds new employees who are in recovery, for the first six months of employment.

We have been selected by the State's Department of Career Services to partner with them in a federal grant application for a National Dislocated Worker grant geared towards the Opiate Crisis. Our plan, should we be funded by the Department of Labor, would be to pay for training for 1-2 Lowell House staff to receive "Train the Trainer" certification to train their staff and Megan's House staff to become certified Peer Recovery Coaches, which GLHA, Lowell House and Megan's House have determined is a need in Lowell. In addition, we would fund a full time Career Advisor who would work with the Lowell House, Megan's House and the Sheriff's local community counseling center for referrals for clients affected by the opioid crisis who are in need of employment. Staff from these organizations, and our Health and Human Services Director, Kerran Vigroux, have indicated that employment after recovery services or incarceration is critical for a person to stay sober and not relapse. The other City selected to participate in this grant was Springfield. We could get up to \$5 million over two years to split with Springfield. We should know by later this summer if Massachusetts was selected.

We look forward to continuing to work with these organizations doing such important work in our community.