

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board

Youth Council

April 8, 2021

2:30 pm

Conducted by WebEx:

<https://cow.webex.com/cow/j.php?MTID=m693215317c954b866cb5a0a9c18c8fe0>

Meeting number (access code): 172 319 7694; Meeting password: kiBvyPs78a3

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

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Members Present: Dawn Buddington, Robin Hooper, Colleen Lanza, Howard Lucas, Roy Lucas, Kristen Mayotte, Isidore Nosike, Kelly Penrod, Dave Trendi (proxy for Colleen Lanza)

Guest Present: Roberto Diaz, Alex Gariepy, Amber Polisher

Staff Present: Jeff Turgeon, Kelsey Lamoureux, Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 2:34 p.m.

Approval of the December 10, 2020 Minutes: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Kelly Penrod and a second by Roy Lucas.

Presentation

The Worcester Jobs Fund – Kelsey Lamoureux, Director Worcester Jobs Fund, discussed the FREE training programs currently available: Clinical Medical Assistant (actively recruiting), School Bus Driver’s License (actively recruiting), Construction Pre-apprenticeship (actively recruiting), Commercial Driver’s License Class A and Class B (currently accepting names for waitlist), Welding/ESOL (through Worcester Public Schools Adult Learning Center and Worcester Night Life), Environmental Remediation Technician, Commercial Driver’s License Class B training for Veterans, CDL A and CDL B for Central MA region, Medical Office Assistant, and Manufacturing ReMAKE 4.0. Programs can also apply to be a SNAP partner. It provides additional money back to programs thus enhancing their funding.

Program Updates (E. Gagne)

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Reviewed FY21 performance and FY22 recommendation pertaining to the 2nd year of the Board’s WIOA youth procurement process. Negotiations will include the elimination of non-essential services or activities and will prioritize an integrated service delivery system that supports qualitative academic and career pathway certificate training programs with attainment of a state recognized credential and positive outcome. The final amount of each project will be adjusted during negotiations based on funding availability.

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability, The MCRWB will provide auxiliary aids and service, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon advance request. Please contact MCRWB at 508-799-1590 or the ADA Coordinator at disabilities@worcesterma.gov.

The Board would like to enter into negotiations with all three proposals - The Fieldstone School, LLC, Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc., and Worcester Community Action Council.

I. Nosike abstained from the voting. Upon a motion, the remaining Council members voted unanimously to approve the recommended programs for FY2022.

YouthWorks (YW)

YouthWorks year round currently enrolled 77 youth. We are still looking for host sites in the manufacturing and administrative office setting for Worcester students. YW summer - we are working with WCAC on identifying host sites for Worcester along with the Center of Hope for Southbridge and Milford. A total of 362 youth will take part. The funder requires 30% of all placements occur virtually.

Connecting Activities

Youth virtual job fair occurred March 31st. 150+ HS juniors and seniors attended and met with 70+ employers. Youth attended virtual readiness workshops.

Council Announcements

K. Mayotte and R. Diaz discussed YouthWorks selection, deadlines and work experience.

C. Lanza mentioned Job Corp non-residential students returned for training and discussed safety measures, admissions, virtual orientation, and recruitment.

Next Meeting

June 10, 2021, conducted by WebEx. Information provided on page 1.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*