

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board

Youth Council

April 13, 2023

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)

+1-415-655-0001,,1723197694## US Toll

Members Present: Kimberly Cummings, Robin Hooper, Howard Lucas, Kristen Mayotte, Isidore Nosike, Amy Partlow, Kate Pesa, Kim Stowe, Jenna Wills

Guest: Melissa Hidalgo, Sam Hyams, Becky Moore, Cecely Reardon, Thula Sibanda

Staff Present: Ed Gagne, Jeff Turgeon

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m.

Approval of the February 9, 2023 Minutes: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Kim Cummings.

Presentation

Department of Youth Services – Cecely Reardon, Acting Commissioner, highlighted the population served, statewide partnerships, programs available, referrals, strategic planning, RFR, mission statement, family engagement, career readiness, and their workforce development initiatives.

To learn more go to: [Department of Youth Services \(DYS\) | Mass.gov](#).

Presentation

Springpod – Sam Hyams, CEO & Founder, provided an overview of Springpod. The organization partners with universities and employers to create interactive learning programs. The platform is a place for young people to explore, interact and learn about the world of work and university before they apply. Free to every student, Springpod is monetized through a university, employer partnerships, school, and college memberships.

To learn more go to: [It's time to take control of your future | Springpod](#). Sam can be reached at sam.hyams@springpod.com

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.

Program Updates

A) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Members were mailed copy of the FY24 WIOA Recommendations with a request to respond with any comments. Correspondence mentioned the document is part of a 2 year procurement process for WIOA youth programs. The Board, will vote to approve and recommend continued funding in FY24.

B) YouthWorks (YW) (J. Wills)

- Winter Cohort enrollments: 100 Youth
- STEM Cohort enrollments: 60 Youth
- Summer anticipated: 500. Seventy five various employers across a diverse sector – nonprofit, biotech, government, healthcare. Summer program starts July 5th - August 18th. Youth can apply by 6/1 here: <https://wcac.net/youthworks-summer-jobs/>

C) Connecting Activities (J. Turgeon)

- Blackstone Valley Ed Foundation (BVEF) are planning a career fair for HS seniors.
- Requested funds to support a new position focused on employer outreach and connections to area high schools.

Council Announcements

No Council announcements.

Next Meeting

June 8, 2023, conducted by WebEx. Information provided on page 1.

Adjourn

Hearing no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm upon a motion.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*