

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board
Executive Committee
June 21, 2024; 8:30 AM
Conducted via MS Teams

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Paul Gilbody, Joshua Froimson, Robin Hooper, Libis Bueno; Jennifer Almeida, Janice Weekes

Staff: Jeff Turgeon

- P. Gilbody welcomed attendees and after brief welcoming discussion a motion was made to accept the May 17, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- J. Turgeon noted that he and J. Ryan Weekes were joining remotely from the MA Workforce Association annual conference being held in Salem, MA and apologized for any connectivity issues.
- J. Turgeon then outlined several Board activities underway, including the upcoming YouthWorks summer jobs program that will be getting \$1.5 million in City funds to help offset some of the cut to this year's program by the state – which saw a reduction from \$4.53m last year to \$1.6m.). He explained that the past two years' saw large growth in the YouthWorks state budgets due to federal ARPA funds being infused into the program at the state level, and that we are now experiencing a return to funding more in line with historical averages.
- J. Turgeon also noted that the application for the region's School to Career Connecting Activities program was submitted for approx. \$390,000, and he then highlighted some of the other programs the Board is involved with, including the regional healthcare hub and CDL training programs.
- J. Ryan Weekes then discussed the career center updates, including an update on services being provided to area migrant emergency shelters (primarily from Haiti), as well as staff openings, and upcoming events, such as the virtual job fair happening on June 26th. She also highlighted that her staff are looking into some new technology-based tools. She also noted the retirement of a staff person, Joyce Courtney, that had been on the job for 49 years and praised her efforts during her tenure.
- The committee then discuss the July full board meeting agenda and Libis Buenos stated he would be happy to give a presentation regarding Artificial Intelligence tools and potential pitfalls at the meeting.
- The executive committee meeting will next meet on Friday, August 16, 2024 at 8:30am via MS Teams.
- Hearing no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: J. Turgeon