

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board
Youth Council
April 11 2024 2:30 pm
TEAMS Meeting ID: 243 189 160 987; Passcode: FVMXD5
Join by phone: 1-469-998-7682

Members Present: Doug Daigle, Robin Hooper, Isidore Nosike, Kristine Mayotte, Amber Polisher, Kimberly Samia

Guest: Melissa Hidalgo, John Peterson

Staff Present: Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

Approval of the February 8, 2024 Minutes: The meeting minutes were forwarded to all YWIC members for review and comment. Hearing no comments, meeting minutes were approved.

Presentation

Kids Biz Labs – John Peterson, CEO, highlighted the entrepreneur class that cover crucial topics like leadership, niche development, and social skills, while also emphasizing online tools for effective business management. Students will master skills such as internet and social media marketing, digital design, e-commerce, Search Engine Optimization (SEO), and AI utilization.

To learn more go to: www.kidsbizlabs.com. John can be reached at: kidsbizlabs@gmail.com

Program Updates (E. Gagne)

A) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

E. Gagne thanked the WIOA youth review team (Robin Hooper and Kim Samia) for their participation in the FY25 proposal review process. An overview of WIOA and FY25 program highlights, youth elements, performance indicators, and proposal content occurred. Youth funding recommendations were presented that prioritize an integrated delivery system that supports qualitative academic and career pathway certificate training programs with attainment of a state recognized credential and outcomes. The review team would like to enter into negotiations and prioritize funding the Fieldstone School, LLC and Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc. If funding allows, we also recommend the Worcester Community Action Council, Inc. if the agency has the ability to revise their outreach, recruitment and assessment process. The FY25 recommendations were forwarded to all YWIC members for final review and comment by April 16, 2024.

Hearing no comments, the recommendations will proceed to the Board for review and final approval.

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.

B) YouthWorks (YW)

- Year-round jobs program serving 185 eligible youth 14-25.
- Worcester (WCAC), Milford (Milford Youth Center), and Blackstone Valley (BVHub) with funding from MA DESE for STEM related work placements for approx. 65 youth.
- Summer YW currently in planning stages. Funding might be lower than FY24.

C) Connecting Activities

- Career Fair April 23rd at Polar Park; School Leadership Summit May 1st; Worcester Public Schools Business Connect Summit May 9th.

Council Announcements

D. Daigle highlighted the National Grid program. The flyer reviewed at the meeting and forwarded to all members explaining the details.

A. Polish highlighted the annual open house for graduating seniors and thanked the Worcester Connecting Activities program for their support.

I. Nosike highlighted a new ECG and phlebotomy grant with the Central and North Central regions.

Next Meeting

June 13, 2024, conducted by TEAMS. Information provided on page 1.

Adjourn

Hearing no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm upon a motion.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*