

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board

Jan. 21,2021; 8:30 AM

Via Webex – phone & online

Meeting Minutes

The following members/proxies were present: Paul Gilbody (Chair); Janice Ryan Weekes; Leslie Baker; Joshua Froimson; Karen Koller; Colleen Lanza; Don Prescott; Luis Pedraja; Richard Cheney; Kevin Kuros; Libis Bueno; Rick Laferriere; Jil Wonoski; Robin Hooper; Jennifer Almeida; Dean Messier; Ethan Brown; Edward Bartkiewicz; Alex Guardiola (proxy for T. Murray); Jose Perez

Guests/Staff: J. Turgeon (MCRWB); Vivianna Abreu-Hernandez; Julie Purcell; Deb Baillargeon; Mikayla Tucker-Davis

Call to Order, Announcement of Quorum & Note of Conflict of Interest: P. Gilbody called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM, and asked the members if anyone wished to note any conflicts of interest on the agenda. No conflicts were noted. P. Gilbody then welcomed all the attendees and thanked them for their attendance. J. Turgeon then reviewed the attendance log.

Approval of the October 15, 2020 MCRWB Meeting Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by L. Bueno and second by R. Hooper.

P. Gilbody then turned the agenda over to J. Turgeon to conduct the election of the 2021 MCRWB Chairperson role and he opened the floor for nominations; R. Hooper nominated P. Gilbody to continue as Chair and it was seconded by J. Ryan Weekes. P. Gilbody accepted the nomination. J. Turgeon asked if there were any additional nominations and after hearing none, a motion was made by L. Pedraja and seconded by D. Prescott to close nominations and elect P. Gilbody as Chair. The motion passes unanimously and J. Turgeon expressed his appreciation to Paul for agreeing to continue as the Chair. P. Gilbody thanked the members and noted that he would continue to work with L. Parady as his Vice Chair, pending her acceptance.

P. Gilbody then invited a guest from the Axuda micro-loan program, Julie Purcell, to discuss this resource. Ms. Purcell outlined for the Board the Axuda program and how it may help the working poor stay employed through access to no-fee/no interest loans up to \$600 that offer easy payment schedules and no punishments for late payment, etc. They ask area employers or organizations to serve as intermediaries to help identify people in need of the loans – but the sponsoring organizations are in no way responsible for the loan or co-signing it. Members were asked to contact Julie for more information.

J. Turgeon then gave an update on Board programs and activities, including the YouthWorks Year Round program, the regional blueprint implementation (and priority sector workforce consortia), and the career center operator RFP, which has been delayed until Jan. 29th – which pushes back the schedule for the RFP review and Committee/Board votes. These votes will occur through the Career Center/Adult Career Pathways and then up to the Executive Committee on behalf of the full Board. He asked that board members not involved in a bid to consider volunteering as a reviewer.

P. Gilbody then welcomed Deb Baillargeon to give the Board an update regarding career center services, including several new online tools, including a virtual career center seminar and customer feedback survey process.

P. Gilbody thanks Ms. Baillargeon and then welcomed Mikayla Tucker-Davis from the career center who gave a presentation regarding two new free/low cost online learning tools available to career center customers – Coursera and Skillsbase.

J. Turgeon then reviewed upcoming events and reminded members that they can access up to date information regarding area training opportunities by logging in to the MCRWB website at www.masshirecentral.com. This includes current trainings in manufacturing, warehouse/supply chain management, CDL drivers, healthcare, and IT help desk support.

The members were then invited to make announcements and no member announcements were made, and upon a motion, second, and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 am.

P. Gilbody thanked all for their attendance.

The next MCRWB full board meeting is Thursday, April 15, 2021 (location to be announced)

Respectfully drafted by, J. Turgeon; MCRWB