

**Masshire Central Region Workforce Board
Youth Council
October 11, 2018
2:30 pm
340 Main Street, 4th Floor, Worcester, MA**

Members Present: Deb Feraco, Carolyn Gordon, Carrick O'Brien, Robin Hooper, Dave Trendi, Howard Lucas, Kelly Penrod
Guests: Kimberly White, John Piselli
Staff Present: Jeff Turgeon, Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:37 p.m.
2. **Note of Potential Conflicts of Interest & Confirmation of Quorum:** It was announced that a quorum was present. No conflicts were noted.
3. **Vote:**
Approval of Minutes: The August 9, 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Carrick O'Brien and a second by Deb Feraco.

4. **Presentation:** Deb Feraco, *Assistant Director/Advisor*, Webster Public Schools

Deb highlighted the ABE, ESOL, and Manufacturing programs located at Webster Adult Basic Education Linkages program in Webster, MA. This FREE program provides individualized education, training, and advising to help prepare students for work, college or career. Digital literacy is offered for distant learners who prefer to learn from home at their own pace. Classes are offered during the day and evening at Webster and Southbridge locations.

For additional information Deb at 508-949-8282 or at: dferaco@webster-schools.org

5. **Presentation:** Kimberly White, *Adult Community Center Program Director*, Quinsigamond Community College (QCC)

Kimberly highlighted the FREE HiSET/GED preparation, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and Adult Career Pathway programs at QCC. Morning, afternoon and evening classes are located at the downtown campus located at 25 Federal Street. Worcester Housing Authority at Great Brook Valley provides morning classes at 35 Freedom Way, Worcester. Free training is also offered in CNA, and Accounting & Auditing. Additional highlights included Community Bridges, Literacy Volunteers, Future Focus Program, and online blended learning.

For additional information contact Kim at 508-751-7910 or at: kwhite@qcc.mass.edu

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- 6. Presentation:** John Piselli, *Director of Employment Services, My Choice*
Howard Lucas, *Director of Workforce Development, My Choice*

Howard provided an overview of My Choice, and John provided updates at the program and highlighted Career Mobility – a person-centered program that incorporates seven steps to success in employment: Intake Interview, Assessment, Job Development, Integrated Employment Coaching, Benefit Planning, and Community Based Measures, and Support.

For additional information contact John or Howard at 508-556-6889 or at:
jpiselli@mychoiceprograms.com, howardlucas69@gmail.com

7. Program Updates:

- a. WIOA Youth Update:** E. Gagne mentioned DCS's provided preliminary Q4 Youth Annual Report Numbers for Central Mass. Final numbers will be posted mid- October:

Q2 Employment/Education:	85.2%
Q4 Employment/Education:	82.4%
Credential Attainment:	82.4%
Measurable Skill Gain:	69.2%

- b. YouthWorks (YW) Year Round Update:** E. Gagne mentioned the Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC) will provide paid work experience and job-readiness training to 25 at-risk youth in the City of Worcester. WCAC will provide work-readiness training. The program will utilize the Signal Success work-readiness curriculum.
- c. Connecting Activities Update:** E. Gagne mentioned program partners will add 6 schools. Worcester Public Schools will include the Alternative School at St. Casimir and the Challenge and Reach Academy. Blackstone Valley Education Center will upgrade 4 schools (Webster, Dudley-Charlton, Oxford and Auburn) from Network Members to School Partners. Partner Schools work with their local Workforce Board, designate one or more staff in the school who will coordinate work-based learning and/or career development activities, and are able to receive funding through the Board to cover the cost of program implementation.
- d. STEM-Focused Internships for High School Students Update:** E. Gagne mentioned program partners will seek to expand the resource guide to include additional STEM industries. Partners will develop forums with school coordinators to identify resources needed to support the establishment of paid STEM internships.

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- e. **AMP It Up Grant Update:** E. Gagne mentioned parents, teachers, and guidance counselors are provided resources that help young adults toward a career path that leads to skilled in-demand jobs. Partners are planning a number of hands-on activities at QCC's FabLab for students participating in Manufacturing Week.

8. Announcements:

D. Trendi discussed the expanded electrical program at Job Corp. He also indicated the manufacturing program will start in November.

R. Hooper mentioned there will be a tour of the Hydroponics Hub at My Choice following the meeting.

Next Meeting:

- a. **December 13th – MCRWB, 340 Main Street, 4th Floor, Worcester, MA 01608.**

- 9. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 4:05 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*