

**MassHire Central Region Workforce Board
Youth Council**

October 13, 2022

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

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Members Present: Rebecca Brownstein, Robin Hooper, Kristen Mayotte, Isidore Nosike, Amy Partelow, Kate Pesa, Kim Stowe, David Trendi, Jenna Wills

Guest Present: Melissa Ayala, Duwaun Hardy, Melissa Hidalgo

Staff Present: Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of the April 14, 2022 Minutes: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Isidore Nosike.

Presentation

Bottom Line – Duwaun Hardy/Partnership Manager and Melissa Ayala/Advisor provided an overview of Bottom Line and the how agency helps first-generation students from low-income backgrounds. The organization assists students who need a mentor and a guide during the college application process and throughout college in order to help them succeed. One-on-one support is provided. Nearly 100% of the agency is privately funded and currently serves over 8,000 students through their two primary programs - **College Access** and **College Success**.

To learn more go to [Bottom Line - Get in, graduate and go far. Success depends on you.](#) Duwaun can be reached at dhardy@bottomline.org and Ayala at mayala@bottomline.org

Program Updates

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

WCAC – Melissa Hidalgo

WINGS program offers High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) preparation for ages 16-24.

Participants also review topics related to the world of work through computer training, classroom readings, discussions, and writing. Instruction concentrates on the core components of the HiSET certification exam. For additional information contact Melissa at mhidalgo@wcac.net

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YOU Inc. – Kate Pesa

The agency provides education and vocational services Career Pathways Program provides structured academic supports and tutoring to students who have dropped out of a traditional high school and want to attain a High School Equivalency. The program also offers occupational skills training to HS graduates interested in IT, CNA, Phlebotomy, and ECG. Program includes pre-employment skills training. For additional information contact kpesa@sevenhills.org

Fieldstone School – Isidore Nosike

The agency provides Nurse Aide, Home Health Aide, Phlebotomy Technician and ECG technician while preparing students for the state examination. Student participate in work readiness and life skills training. For additional information contact

inosike@thefieldstoneschool.com

YouthWorks (YW) Summer

WCAC – Jenna Wills

The agency served 143 students in the Spring, 2022 and 372 students in the Summer. Approximately \$800,000 paid in youth wages. Youth received \$2,100 for 6 weeks earning \$14.25/hr and youth leaders earning \$15/hr. Examples of jobs: Biotech Research, IT, Healthcare, Early Childhood Education, Maintenance, and Program Assistants.

YouthWorks Year Round

The MCRWB received state funds through the Commonwealth Corporation to provide services to 110 youth ages 14-25 in subsidized work in Worcester - along with 60 students that will have paid internships through a state STEM grant. The BVEF has been awarded funding to serve another 90 STEM interns.

Connecting Activities

MCRWB – Ed Gagne

The Board's been working with our partners at the Blackstone Valley Ed Foundation and Worcester Public Schools to establish our quarterly program leadership schedule and STEM grant activities that provide youth paid internships in education funded by DESE. We are also coordinating with Shrewsbury HS.

Council Announcements

K. Mayotte asked if the next meeting if WIOA vendors could share what creative practices they have put into place to best support the participants if they are presenting with new challenges and gaps in education, and social integration.

Next Meeting

December 8, 2022, conducted by WebEx. Information provided on page 1.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*

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