

**MassHire Central Region Workforce Board (MCRWB)
Career Center/Adult Career Services Committee
340 Main Street Suite 400, Worcester, MA 01608
September 11, 2018
3:00 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Joshua Froimson (Chair), George Cortes, Karen King, Leslie Baker, Leslie Parady (Co-Chair), Dominique DuTremble-Proxy for John McGovern, Christine McNally-Proxy for Kathy Manning, Joyce Clemence, Sandra Foley

Staff in Attendance: Ethan Brown (MCRWB), Jeff Turgeon (MCRWB), Lourdes Rivera (MCRWB) and Deborah Baillargeon (MHWCC)

Invited Guest: Steve McClure, Task for Transit

J. Froimson welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 3:04pm. No conflicts of interest were noted.

J. Froimson - A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda which included the September 11, 2018 Committee Meeting Minutes. The vote passed unanimously.

D. Baillargeon confirmed the career centers are still experiencing issues with the MOSES database and JobQuest. A number of staff have had their access restored and the backlog of case notes and jobseeker data entry has been dealt with. As more staff access is restored, the career centers will increase the rate of data entry. Business Representatives are still experiencing issues with entering and updating job postings through JobQuest. D. Baillargeon confirmed the UnCommon Job Fair will take place on September 21st on the Worcester Common Oval.

Guest speaker Steve McClure from Task for Transit shared information on their transportation voucher program. Task for Transit provides bus fare vouchers to support individuals with limited to no transportation. Task for Transit serves the Greater Worcester area and works directly with charitable organizations to identify individuals and to distribute the transportation assistance kits and track the vouchers. There are a limited number of vouchers and they typically go to the most in need. Steve provided demographic data regarding program participants (unemployed for 1.5 years or longer, those who are employed work 2nd or 3rd shift, individuals living shelters, single parents, individuals who do not have a driver license, individuals with an average walking commute of 50 minutes or more). Steve is interested in sharing data on target populations, getting assistance with Spanish translation program materials, funding to support the program and using online media and other marketing tools to share information across agencies regarding services for shared populations. Committee members would like to know are there existing programs that support transportation.

L. Baker shared information on the Webster Public Schools Adult Education program which now includes a program in Southbridge, Ma. Training includes HiSET/GED, ESOL and employment readiness classes. L. Baker also shared information the upcoming manufacturing training program through the Webster Public Schools Adult Basic Education (ABE) Linkage Program taking place on September 24th at Baypath Regional Vocational Technical High School in Charlton, MA. Participants have the opportunity to earn their Occupational Safety and Health Administration

(OSHA) certification and a National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) certification along with their manufacturing certificate.

J. Turgeon confirmed an initial meeting with Ma BizWorks staff and healthcare agencies regarding the SLACK tool has taken place. The next step is to expand it to other industries. State partners are working with the Ma BizWorks team on the expansion.

E. Brown will continue to work on identifying a student or students to assist with the Increasing Labor Force Participation Rate research project.

E. Brown stated more members are need for the Committee and has asked existing members to provide candidates for consideration.

ACTION: J. Turgeon will see how the MCRWB and career centers can support the Task for Transit program with marketing, identifying funding sources and sharing information about the program with shared clients and identify other programs that support transportation. G. Cortes indicated he would be willing to assist with translating for Task for Transit.

ACTION: J. Turgeon will provide an update on the use of the Slack tool and expansion to other industries.

ACTION: E. Brown will be attending an internship job fair at Worcester State. He will report back to the Committee if he has found a suitable student to assist with the labor force research project.

ACTION: Members will recommend candidates for the Committee and consideration for membership. An invitation to join the Committee has been extended to Steve McClure.

J. Froimson announced the next Committee meeting will be on November 13, 2018.

With that, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Ethan Brown

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