

**MassHire Central Region Workforce Board  
Executive Committee  
March 17, 2023; 8:30 AM  
Conducted via webex**

**Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Sonia Hernandez (proxy for Janice Ryan Weekes), Libis Bueno, Joshua Froimson,  
Staff: Jeff Turgeon

- J. Turgeon welcomed everyone to the Webex meeting and asked everyone to review the agenda and note any conflicts of interest. None were noted. He then asked if anyone would like to make a motion to pass the minutes from the Feb. 17, 2023 committee meeting and a motion was made and seconded to accept the meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- J. Turgeon reviewed Board programming with the committee, including information regarding the YouthWorks and other youth programs, including the STEM and High School Senior Interns in Education projects, the Connecting Activity program which was allocated new funding by MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to support the creation of an employer outreach position housed at the Chamber of Commerce, a “senior scoop” career fair for high school seniors not intending to go to college, and the piloting of a virtual reality-based career development class/activities. L. Bueno asked to have information on the VR initiative shared, and also asked what the Board could do to help impart more critical thinking skills and initiative to students. J. Turgeon said he would ask the Youth Director, Ed Gagne, to look into this.
- J. Turgeon then highlighted regional industry pathway programs, including the healthcare Hub grant project and the Behavioral Health grant project, and noted they have consortia meetings for healthcare, Manufacturing, and Transportation/Logistics/Warehousing this month.
- J. Turgeon also reviewed administrative work at the Board level, including preparation of the career center review report, the need for a new member orientation, and follow up with state officials regarding the new online ethics certification platform.
- S. Hernandez updated the committee regarding career center efforts, including interviews to fill two positions, and resumption of programming to people at the County Jail that are nearing release. She also noted that work is progressing on the new Worcester career center space.
- The committee then discussed the upcoming April Board meeting agenda, that will include WIOA Youth contract renewal vote and a presentation regarding the Unemployment Insurance special assessments being sent out to employers due to COVID.
- The executive committee meeting will next meet on Friday, May 19, 2023 at 8:30am
- Hearing no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted by: J. Turgeon*