

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board
Executive Committee
Nov 21, 2019; 8:15 AM
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Rosalie Lawless, Janice Ryan Weekes, Joshua Froimson, Robin Hooper, Leslie Parady,
Staff: Jeff Turgeon

- R. Lawless welcomed the committee members and asked everyone to review the agenda and note any conflicts of interest. J. Ryan Weekes noted her potential conflict with the career center RFP discussion.
- Upon a motion by J. Froimson and second by L. Parady, the minutes from the committee's August 15, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.
- J. Weekes updated the committee on the career center operations, noting the State has filled the long-vacant Business Services Representative position (Ms. Yesenia Aponte), and are in the final hiring steps with a new Access To Recovery (ATR) program counselor, and interviewing candidates for the vacant career center counselor position. The State is also interviewing candidates for the Veterans' Services Representative position in Southbridge. She also noted State officials are working with the boards and career centers on customer data validation as part of a Federal effort to ensure data being entered is correct. J. Ryan also informed the committee that she is working with State officials to finalize the housing - workforce pilot program agreement.
- J. Turgeon discussed the status of several projects; the Worcester Jobs Fund is now recruiting for a Commercial Driver's License which starts very soon and is also recruiting for a Medical assistant training program. The New MCRWB Senior Program manager, Deb Feraco, has begun a new pharmacy tech training class as part of the State-funded Learn to Earn initiative she is overseeing. He also noted work on the three regional industry consortia is ongoing, including year two of the manufacturing consortium (remake 4.0), the healthcare consortium – meeting next on Dec. 13th, and the consortium for Transportation/Logistics/Warehousing meeting next on Dec. 3rd.
- J. Turgeon discussed the school to career connecting activities program, funded by the state, which was level funded but noted last year a second round of special funding was offered, so this year's program will be smaller than last year since this year's allocation does not include this second pot of funding. He also informed the committee of a problem the Board is having with one of the key program partners, the Worcester Public Schools, in getting their billing and participant data submitted in a timely manner, creating programming challenges for the region. He noted he will be discussing this issue for the third straight year and will be largely focusing the cuts to the budget (from last year's expanded program to this year's baseline only budget) to this partner for these reasons.
- J. Turgeon let the committee know that the MA Secretary of Labor will be joining the regional workforce blueprint planning team meeting at their next meeting on October 8th (place to be determined). A save the date will go out soon to planning team members.

- L. Bueno noted he will be coordinating a meeting of the computer coding/IT expansion work group in the near future. He has recruited a colleague that operates a highly regarded teen training program to assist in this effort, along with a representative from Worcester State University.
- J. Turgeon let the committee know he is working with the two sub-committees (the Adult Career Pathways/Career Center committee and the Youth Workforce Council) to revise past year “dashboard” reports that helped track performance in these areas.
- J. Turgeon will be scheduling a new member orientation for new members Sherri Pitcher and Dean Messier in the near future. He also informed the committee that they are interviewing for the vacant program manager position and have revised the job description for the Resource Development (Associate Director) position that is now also vacant with Ethan’s departure. He invited the committee to help send off Ethan next Thursday afternoon (he will send an invitation out to the full board).
- J. Turgeon asked the committee if they had any thoughts on guest speakers for the next full board meeting. L. Bueno suggested looking someone that may be knowledgeable about the impending changes to US Immigration policies and how they may affect our local economy/workforce. J. Turgeon said he will look into a possible resource for this but wasn’t sure if enough is known yet about the new policy changes to discuss potential local impacts.
- The next committee meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 19th at 8:15am.
- Hearing no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: J. Turgeon