

**Masshire Central Region Workforce Board
Youth Council
April 11, 2019
2:30 pm
Easter Seals, 484 Main Street, 6th Floor, Worcester, MA**

Members Present: Terry Walles (proxy for Jennifer Brunelle), Doug Daigle, Laura Farnsworth, Deb Feraco, Judy Freeman Fask, Robin Hooper, Howard Lucas, Roy Lucas, Kristen Mayotte, Robert McGlory, Isidore Nosike, Carrick O'Brien, Kelly Penrod, Desiree Sanchez

Staff Present: Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:34 p.m.
2. **Note of Potential Conflicts of Interest & Confirmation of Quorum:** Three attendees noted a conflict of interest: Kristin Mayotte, Isidore Nosike, and Carrick O'Brien. It was noted that a quorum was present.
3. **Vote:**
October 11, 2018 Minutes: Upon a motion by Isidore Nosike, seconded by Judy Fask, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes.
4. **Presentation:**
Kelly Penrod, *Pre-employment/Job Development Coordinator*, Easter Seals
Patrick Remy, *Youth Worker*, Easter Seals

Kelly and Patrich provided program highlights of Easter Seals services that include: Assistive Technology, Loan Programs, MassMATCH, Recreation, Employment & Training, Youth Transition, Youth Leadership Network, Rehabilitation & Applied Behavioral Analysis, Military & Veterans Services, Public Affairs, Student Services & Community Programs, Mentorship, and Martial Arts.

The agency is located at 484 Main Street, 6th Floor, Worcester, MA. Telephone: 508-751-6417. Website: www.eastersealsma.org

5. **FY2020 WIOA Programs Review and Vote:**
E. Gagne reviewed WIOA background and discussed highlights of out-of-school program services, work experience activities, older youth enrollment, implementation of new elements, performance indicators, and 14 program elements. Three programs were recommended for continued funding: The Fieldstone School, Youth Opportunities Upheld, and Worcester Community Action Council.

J. Fask mentioned the limitations placed on students with disabilities who cannot access services. Students are classified as in-school by DESE and cannot participate in out-of-school services. D. Daigle indicated in a prior year TRA's inability to serve students in

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their out-of-school program for the same reasons. A future discussion will occur, prior to the 2021 RFP release, to review a percentage of funds set aside for in-school programs. E. Gagne will revisit the discussion with DESE and DCS to see if the classification of in-school vs. out-of-school can change to accommodate WPS students.

Excluding K. Mayotte, I. Nosike, and Carrick O'Brien, upon a motion, the remaining Council members voted unanimously to approve the recommended programs for FY2020.

6. Program Updates:

- a. **YouthWorks:** C. O'Brien indicated the deadline for YW is April 30th. The program is for youth ages 14-21. WCAC and the Center of Hope will provide summer employment to approximately 337 youth. This year an additional project design with the Innovation Pathways program through Worcester Public Schools will occur for high demand industries: health, manufacturing, IT, and construction.
- b. **STEM Focused Internships:** E. Gagne mentioned 29 STEM student internships occurred at 22 employers through Worcester Public Schools and Blackstone Valley. On March 21st, the first STEM HS Internship Colloquium occurred sponsored by MassHire Central Region Workforce Board, WPI, and the Central MA STEM Network. At the event, STEM HS internship and employers shared their experiences.

April 2nd, MassHire Central Region Workforce Board and North Central Workforce Board had the 6th annual GROW awards. Three employers in Worcester were recognized: Knowlwood Nursing Center, Grafton Public Schools, and Domitek.

- c. **Connecting Activities:** 534 students participated in career awareness and exploration activities. MCRWB increased its presence at Blackstone Valley school partnerships. Increased focus at workshops, meetings and events will stress post-secondary credentials as opposed to college because college is not the next step for all students and short term career pathways are of particular interest.

7. Announcements:

L. Farnsworth mentioned the April 25th focus group for ages 16-29 who are in transition. A \$50 dollar stipend is provided for participants. The focus group last approximately 1.5 hours and food and drinks will be served.

E. Gagne mentioned the event "College Can Be Your Future" at the MCRWB and the inspiring guest speaker, Eduardo Rivas. He attended the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ESL program at Training Resources of America, Ascentria/Lutheran Social Services. He enrolled at QCC and then Assumption College concentrating in accounting and mathematics where he completed his BA, MBA and CAGS in Management. He is currently employed at

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Quinsigamond Community College as an Admissions Counselor and a Math and Accounting Adjunct Professor.

Next Meeting:

a. **June 13th, 340 Main Street, Suite 400, Worcester, MA**

- 8. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*

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