

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board

Youth Council

December 10, 2020

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

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

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Members Present: Kathe Coll, Judy Freedman Fask, Robin Hooper, Colleen Lanza, Roy Lucas, Kristen Mayotte, Robert McGlory, Isidore Nosike, Kelly Penrod, Marci Skillings, Dave Trendi (proxy for Colleen Lanza)

Guest Present: Alex Garepsy, Amber Polisher

Staff Present: Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of the October 8, 2020 Minutes: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from David Trendi, and a second by Kelly Penrod.

Presentation

Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) Post-secondary Enrollment During COVID: D. Buddington discussed QCC's national and local recognition; named 5th best return on investment for online associate degrees nationwide and ranked number 1 in the Commonwealth for highest enrollment among state community colleges. Dawn provided insight on how to thrive during a remote college experience, discussed the enrollment application process, reviewed the academics page that covered goals, classes, costs, and career requirements.

Program Updates (E. Gagne)

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Program adaptation continues to occur. Programs currently provide instruction and services at each location. Students who prefer to learn remotely continue to do so. Programs still plan to provide HiSET testing at state recognized testing sites. We continue to utilize the online process of collecting data for federal reporting purposes. Programs participated in Mental First Aid focusing on COVID and QCC's college enrollment process and virtual learning presentation.

YouthWorks (YW) - We have three year round YW projects currently underway: 1) A project for 12 youth supported by WCAC case-management/employer of record working with the Boys

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and Girls Club-currently underway 2) A project for 15 youth supported by WCAC case-management/employer of record for students in the Worcester Public Schools' New Citizens Center and the Transitions Program (for students with disabilities aging out of school) – program starts in December.. Non-profit or for profit host sites needed for virtual or in person 3) A project for 25 youth supported by WCAC case-management/employer of record for students in the WPS' Innovation Pathways program (slated to start early next year). Non-profit or for profit host sites needed for virtual or in person. For additional information contact Jeff 4) Additionally, we are working with WCAC and the Worcester Youth Opportunities Office to apply for additional funds that the Commonwealth Corporation to serve an additional 61 youth locally – details are still being worked out on this new project.

Connecting Activities – We successfully partnered with the WPS, WPI, and other area STEM Ecosystem Network partners to deliver daily virtual employer panels during STEM Week that including a virtual info fair regarding manufacturing. The STEM panels might continue, monthly, starting in January. Additionally, we are working with WPS and the alternative school program on a virtual student career fair for the early spring.

Next Meeting

February 11, 2021, conducted by WebEx. Information provided at the top of page one of this document.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*

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