

**MassHire Central Region Workforce Board
Youth Council**

December 8, 2022

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

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Members Present: Rebecca Brownstein, Kimberly Rowe-Cummings, Mildred Currie, Robin Hooper, Howard Lucas, Robert McGlory, Isidore Nosike, Amy Partelow, Kate Pesa, Kim Stowe, David Trendi, Jenna Wills.

Guest Present: Eric Benari, Melissa Hidalgo

Staff Present: Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of the October 13, 2022 Minutes: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Amy Partelow.

Presentation

Techi Youth – Eric Benari/CEO provided an overview of Techie Youth mentioning it is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit that focusing on helping at-risk youth by providing technology-driven career-training, education and related resources that result in long-term sustainable solutions to help youth grow into financially self-sufficient professionals. The agency’s focus is on training and empowering youth with skills to be able to help themselves attain self-sufficiency.

To learn more go to <https://www.techieyouth.org/team>. Eric can be reached at eric@techieyouth.org.

Program Updates (Ed Gagne)

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Program enrollments and outcomes are on where they need to be for the period ending 10/31/22. One reason enrollments increased compared to prior years is because students are unable to keep up with the momentum, academically, and therefor lagged behind during COVID. This forced youth to leave high school and search for programs that could offer 1/1 academic instruction.

Program monitoring occurred during quarters 1 and 2. Programs are in full compliance and several youth attained multiple WIOA required components. Students provided positive feedback with several students indicating the need for drivers ed training. In total, twelve

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students have expressed the need for the training. Funds will be used from an award received by the Youth Director. In total, approximately 15 youth will benefit from the training.

YouthWorks Year Round

Start-up will occur in January via WCAC and will serve Worcester youth. Funding is for 60 participants, and we anticipate additional funds from a DESE STEM internship grant to support 60 additional placements for a total of one hundred and twenty. We are also working with several area school districts to support HS seniors interested in education careers whereby paid internship will be offered this spring as part of the DESE funded High School Senior Internship Education Project (HSSIEP). We anticipate 160 students will participate.

Connecting Activities

BVEF Connecting Activities (total placements: 219)

- Established new partnerships with Uxbridge Police, and EN Engineering (construction)
- Strengthened partnerships with Fontaine Brothers (building/contracting), Lenze Americas (gear boxes, motors, software), and Lampin Corporation (machine shop/CNC), to name just a few.
- Hanover Theater and Conservatory provided in-person student events, and MEFA provided a webinar offering admissions, paying for college, and financial aide for students, parents, and educators.

WPS Connecting Activities (total placements: 67)

- Lamoureux Pagano Associates will organize site visits and career fairs at the Doherty Construction Living Lab project for the 2022/23 school year.
- Hosted 2022-23 meetings with Abbvie (pharmaceutical) and Shawmut (construction design) to plan career exploration activities and work-based learning experiences.
- WPS staff participated in the MassHire Health Care Consortium Meeting and the Policy Group on Tradeswomen's Issues.

Council Announcements

No Council announcements.

Next Meeting

February 9, 2023, conducted by WebEx. Information provided on page 1.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon a motion by Kim Stowe, and approved unanimously at 3:35 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*

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