

CENTRAL MA. WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
Quarterly Board Meeting
April 21, 2011

The following members/proxies were present: D. Anderson; T. Bauer; B. Metayer (for G. Carberry); C. Carlson; J. Froimson; J. Dagilis; J. Hebert (for S. Gately); M. Lanava (for R. Kennedy); P. Morano; D. Perro; R. Scrivens; T. Stone; D. Wallace; J. Zimatravich; D. Osborn; D. Post; J. Poteete; P. Soucy; J. Mello; T. Provost; M. Richman; P. Gilbody

The following members were not in attendance: B. Allen; D. Bono; M.Boone; G. Carmark; L. Cooper; J. Hamerly; J. Healy; D. Penta; C. Richard; P. Rogers; L. Miller; D. DelaGorgendiere; J. Healy; D. Hennessy; P. LaFleur; K. LaTulippe; R. Lawless (Chair) ; R. Thomas

The following CMREB staff members were present: J. Turgeon; L. Oden; R. Zukowski.; S. Arnold; S. McGauley; P. Niddrie

Guest(s) present: A. Goff; R. Scott

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM & NOTE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- a) In the excused absence of Chair, R. Lawless, Career Center/Adult Career Services Committee Chairperson, D. Perro was asked to facilitate the meeting. D. Perro announced that a quorum was established and called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

2. VOTES

- a) A **MOTION** was made by J. Dagilis and seconded to approve the minutes for the January 20, 2011 meeting.
VOTED: Unanimous.

3. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a) Career Center/Adult Career Services Committee Update

- o D. Perro highlighted the committee's recent activities. Since the last meeting on March 15th, the committee has set new goals and objectives removing all objectives that are immeasurable and out of the control of the career center. The career center website is in the final stages of development and staff hopes the site will be up and running soon. The lease for the career center and WIB has been extended as talks continue with the City of Worcester to find a space, possibly available under a city leased building.

b) Youth Council Update:

- o D. Perro welcomed new Youth Council Chair, R. Scott. R. Scott introduced himself and reported that the Youth Council is working to strengthen the opportunities for youth employment and working to get the private sector partners more involved. Efforts continue to coordinate with the City of Worcester's Youth Opportunities office

(focused on Worcester youth) and the JobOne campaign (regional approach) to strengthen and clarify roles.

c) Cultural Competency Advisory Committee Update:

- o D. Perro introduced the new CCAC chair, J. Poteete. J. Poteete reported that Frances Manocchio, the committee's volunteer facilitator has accepted a new job and has stepped down from her role as facilitator. The committee's search for her replacement continues. A request for quotes (RFQ) has gone out and the committee plans to choose a new facilitator at the next meeting on May 3rd.

4. PROGRAM & GRANTS UPDATE:

- a) **Workforce Central Career Center:** D. Anderson updated the committee on the recent activities at the Workforce Central Career Center (please refer to Handouts). In this period the Workforce Central Career Centers (Worcester, Milford, and Soutbridge) have served over 13,000 job seekers, and over 1,200 employers averaging about 17 company recruitments each month. D. Anderson also reported that the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) will be transitioning into call centers and internet-based software and will no longer provide a walk-in capacity at the career centers within the next 6 months. With the transition, a lot of career center employees have applied for these new call center jobs and will no longer be at the career center in about a month.
- b) **Grant Programs:** R. Zukowski provided a Grant Programs update (please refer to Handouts). R. Zukowski noted that it was an active month for the WIB and its partners as most of the grants were due within a month's time. Any questions regarding the Grant Programs update should be forwarded to R. Zukowski at ZukowskiR@worcesterma.gov. J. Turgeon also noted that CMWIB members should forward all workforce related grants opportunities they come across to R. Zukowski as the WIB would be happy to bring the appropriate partners together. The WIB's main interest is to bring additional workforce resources to the region.
YouthWorks: J. Turgeon provided information regarding YouthWorks, which provides summer youth employment funding for Worcester youth only. Last year the program served 400 youth. Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC) manages the program. This year, a Joint Planning Committee has been formed with the City of Worcester's Youth Opportunities Office. The planning committee is looking into adding a financial literacy component where youth participants would open a checking account and receive a debit card instead of the paper checks which were used in years past.
- c) **JobOne Initiative** J. Turgeon reported on the Youth Employment Committee's (JobOne Committee) recent efforts. WIB staff has been working through the committee and Penta Communications to develop a marketing strategy. The committee's next steps will be to finalize materials, including a referral mechanism, and reach out to potential youth-serving partners.

ACTION: J. Turgeon noted that he will be calling board members within the next couple of weeks to ask for their support with the JobOne initiative.

5. **LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET UPDATE**

- P. Niddrie provided the legislative and budget update. P. Niddrie informed the committee that the board chair, R. Lawless had sent out an “As I See It” to the Telegram & Gazette in opposition of the proposed cuts to WIA. The article received great feedback and was even featured in a national workforce development publication. The Federal Government has finished the FY’11 budget and staff is still exploring how the new budget will affect us locally. The discussion at the Federal level has now transitioned to FY’12 (please refer to Handouts). WIB staff and Chair R. Lawless have begun meetings with Worcester delegation to communicate the region’s concern for funding. P. Niddrie noted that avocation from private sector employers to elected officials means much more and thanked members for their continued support.

6. **MIDDLE SKILLS REPORT DISCUSSION**

- J. Turgeon provided information regarding the mismatch between the supply and demand for middle-skills labor. The information was from the report *Massachusetts’ Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs* (please refer to Handouts). J. Turgeon then led discussion around the report’s recommendation:

Every Massachusetts resident should have access to the equivalent of at least two years of education or training past high school- leading to a vocational credential, industry certification, or one’s first two years of college- to be pursued at whatever point and pace makes sense for individual workers and industries. Every person must also have access to the basic skills and support needed to pursue such education.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- J. Dagillis announced that WCAC will be hosting a listening session on April 27th from 8:00a.m.-9:00a.m. For more information please contact Jill at jdagilis@wcac.net.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

1. **MOTION:** A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sean McGauley
*Communications, Operations and
Administrative Specialist*