

Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board
Oct. 18, 2018
8:30 AM
340 Main Street, Suite 400
Worcester, MA 01608
Meeting Minutes

The following members/proxies were present: Rosalie Lawless; Don Prescott; Carlene Campanale (proxy for J. Ryan Weekes); Leslie Baker; Joshua Froimson; Charla Hixson; Leslie Parady; Sarah Baldelli; Jil Wonoski; Susan Mailman; Kate O'Connor (Proxy for Luis Predraja); Alyssa Hansen; Karen Pelletier (proxy for Timothy Murray); Ted Bauer; Richard Cheney; Jennifer Almeida; Phil Niddrie; Libis Bueno

Guests/Staff: J. Turgeon; Lauren Morano; Carol King

- **Call to Order, Announcement of Quorum & Note of Conflict of Interest:** Chair Rosalie Lawless, called the meeting to order at 8:39 AM, and she then asked the members if anyone wished to note any conflicts of interest on the agenda. None were noted, and she welcomed two new Board members, Richard Cheney from the Small Business Development Center, and Jennifer Almeida from the MA Restaurant Association. Meeting attendees then introduced themselves.
- **Approval of July 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** The July 26, 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion and second by members.
- **FY2018 Budget Update:** R. Lawless informed the members that the FY 19 budgetsummary is within the meeting packet and asked the members to review it. She informed the members that in general budget appears stable, with increases in several priority State-funded programs offset by cuts to many of the Federal programs. R. Lawless further reminded the Board that expenses have been paired down this year to match the budget, including moves made last year, such as the closibg of the Milford career center, leaving vacant some staff positions, and reducing the number of youth programs from four to three.
- **Program Updates:** J. Turgeon informed the attendees that program updates for this quarter are in their meeting packets and highlighted several efforts:
 - He reviewed proposed changes to the bylaws – which will be voted upon at our January Board meeting. He noted the changes include the name changes for the Board, as well as the integration of cultural competence into the standing committees instead of a separate committee itself.
 - J. Turgeon also discussed the status of the regional workforce blueprint implementation, highlighting that elements of the plan align with existing regional workforce related Boards, Committees, and Coalitions to allow for greater

efficiency, and also incorporated the development of regional employer/training provider consortium to better identify and address workforce skill needs within our top priority sectors. The Manufacturing consortium has been established and we are awaiting word on potential State funding to support its creation; a healthcare consortium will soon be meeting, and a third consortium for the transportation/logistics sector will be established after the new year. The Board is also working to expand supports for other critical industries, including Information Technology and construction. The next Regional Blueprint Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for December 11th.

- J. Turgeon also noted for members that the Board, Career Centers and all the WIOA Partners (including the MA Dept. of Unemployment Assistance, MA Dept. of Transitional Assistance, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), and others) have launching a shared case-management system to help ensure clients being served by multiple partners have these services coordinated. He also noted the State is working to create a shared online platform for customers receiving services from multiple partners, but this system remains in development and a timeline for its release has not yet been established.
- C. Campanale informed the Board that her career center business services staffing level remains down due to a delay in the filling of State positions and that she is working with State officials to have it filled soon. She also informed the Board that the career center has been working on a special grant project to serve people in recovery from addiction which helps provide Bounce readiness training, career counseling, and training (when needed) to help these clients get back into the workplace.
- C. Hixson discussed the YouthWorks summer jobs program, indicating that this served 273 youth, as well as approximately 20-30 more at Worcester Community Action Council funded from outside sources, such as the Shannon Grant. A Year-Round YouthWorks program is being developed for the spring to serve 20 to 25 out of school/out of work youth 16-21 at this time.

- **Other Business:** L. Morano and M Tucker-Davis gave a presentation regarding the transition to the new brand for the Board and Career Centers (MassHire Central Region Workforce Board, and MassHire Worcester Career Center and MassHire Southbridge Career Center) to help gain a better recognition of the Board and Career Centers as part of the statewide network. They discussed with members the steps involved in the transition, including staff “enculturation” training, and announced the Central MA launch date will be Sept. 6th, with an open house happening here at 340 Main Street from 9:30-11am that will be attended by the MA Secretary of Labor, Rosalyn Acosta. All CMWIB members are invited.

- **Program Spotlight:**
 - Carol King gave a presentation regarding the Adult Basic Education and ESOL programs being offered by Quinsigamond Community College, noting the program availability and connection to employment trainings. She discussed

ways to help connect with existing and potential workers to help local employers grow their workforce skills.

- Leslie Baker gave a presentation regarding the Webster Public Schools' contextualized ABE manufacturing program that helps combine training for manufacturing with Adult Basic Education coursework that is offered at BayPath Regional High School. She also noted the ability of this program to help connect students with local jobs that are in demand in the Southern Worcester County area.
- The Board then discussed several topics relating to training and job success, including the need for greater transportation resources, and issues relating to criminal background checks and drug testing. It was suggested that educating job seekers about the need to remain drug free because employers still test job candidates even though it is now legal in MA. C. Campanale will look to help find information regarding this issue to share with job seekers and employers.
- **Member Announcements:**
 - Karen Pelletier informed the Board that the Chamber has received approval for the region's Comprehensive Economic Development (CEDS) plan that it spearheaded this past year. This CEDS designation allows the region to qualify for additional resources Federally. She also invited Board members to attend the Chamber's open house at their new Main Street location.
 - J. Turgeon invited members to attend an upcoming discussion of transportation options available through Lyft's corporate account program happening on Nov. 15th.
 - Rosalie announced the retirement of long time MA Workforce Board Association director Don Gillis, citing his legacy to our system. She invited members to join in honoring him at this year's MA Workforce Summit being held on Oct. 24th up at the Devens Conference Center.
- **Adjournment:** The meeting was then adjourned upon a motion, second and unanimous vote. The next MCRWB full board meeting is Thursday, January 17, 2019.

Respectfully drafted by, J. Turgeon; MCRWB