

**MassHire Central Region Workforce Board (MCRWB)**  
**Career Center/Adult Career Services Committee**  
**340 Main Street Suite 400, Worcester, MA 01608**  
**May 14, 2019**  
**3:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members in Attendance:** Joshua Froimson (Chair), Leslie Parady (Co-Chair), Julie Marshall, Brittany Raposa, Christine McNally, Karen King, Liz Tiley (invited guest), George Cortes, Steve McClure

**Staff in Attendance:** Ethan Brown (MCRWB), Debra Baillargeon (MHWCC)

J. Froimson welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 3:07pm. No conflicts of interest were noted.

A recommendation by G. Cortes was put to the Committee asking that the action item for each meeting be added to the agenda to ensure they are being addressed consistently and in a timely manner. A motion was made and seconded to approve the change. The vote passed unanimously.

J. Froimson- A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda which included the March 12, 2019 Committee Meeting Minutes. The vote passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the request by J. Turgeon to recommend a one year extension to the One Stop Operator Intragovernmental Agreement that began July 1, 2017, between the Central MA Workforce Investment Board (now known as the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board), and the Workforce Central Career Centers now known as the MassHire Central Career Centers) which had an initial two year agreement period ending June 30, 2019. A motion to forward the request to the Full Board for approval was made and seconded. The vote passed unanimously. D. Baillargeon recused herself prior to the vote to avoid a conflict of interest.

D. Baillargeon informed the Committee that the search for the BEST Supervisor continues. There was an offer made and accepted by a candidate. That person then rescinded his acceptance. The Career Center leadership has another group of candidates that have applied for the reposted position. Also, D. Baillargeon confirmed the DCU Job Fair was well attended by jobseekers. A total of 780 people were in attendance at the event. Following the event, 56 employers were surveyed and of that 39 responded with positive marks. Committee members have asked that D. Baillargeon provide the questions from the survey and recommended there be some kind of follow up to confirm which employers hired candidates and the total number hired as a result of the job fair. The Committee also recommended in the future outreaching and having more press covering the job fair. Invited guest Liz Tiley, the Worcester Public Schools Nightlife Coordinator, did confirm four of her students got interviews from employers who attended the event. D. Baillargeon confirmed planning for the UnCommon Job Fair is underway. She also shared with the Committee that both Career Centers also conduct mini job fairs on a monthly basis.

E. Brown informed the Committee that all items on the Issue Tracker have been addressed, passed on to the appropriate person/organization for further development or tabled. The Committee will review the tracker to determine if additional issues should be added.

J. Froimson stated the Committee would need better data to understand the true number of individuals who are not counted in the State labor participation rate. L. Parady did share a link from the MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. This did provide some information with regard to individuals who are able to work, but are not working. However, it still fell short of being able to identify other non-participation jobseekers such as those working under the table or jobseekers that are not working and stopped looking for work due to spousal income. The Committee agreed it would need to decide if this is a subject that can be addressed at the committee level. Members provided additional things to consider:

- a. Jobseekers unable to work because of limitations such as transportation and child care. There are existing programs to address these issues such as the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) and Task for Transit, but overall resource for the City are who fully too little. A suggestion was made to look into how partner organizations outreach to employers whether or not those relationships can be used to support transportation and child care.

L. Parady informed the Committee that MassMEP will be having an automation robotics exhibit on May 30<sup>th</sup> and those members who may be interested in attending should follow up with her.

**ACTION:** J. Turgeon will forward the request to approve a one year extension to the One Stop Operator to the Full Board for approval.

**ACTION:** D. Baillargeon will provide the questions from the survey given to employers who took part in the DCU Center Job Fair.

**ACTION:** Committee to consider whether the issue of labor workforce participation rate can be addressed via this Committee and if employer partners can be directed to address other issues with respect to the labor force participation challenges such as transportation.

J. Froimson announced the next Committee meeting will be on July 9, 2019.

With that, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by: Ethan Brown*

***The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability, The CMWIB will provide auxiliary aids and service, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon advance request. Please contact Ethan Brown ([BrownEA@worcesterma.gov](mailto:BrownEA@worcesterma.gov) or 508-3739-7612) or the ADA Coordinator at [disabilities@worcesterma.gov](mailto:disabilities@worcesterma.gov).***