

Central MA Workforce Investment Board
Executive Committee
April 17, 2018; 8:30 AM
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Rosalie Lawless, Joshua Froimson, Robin Hooper, Janice Weekes
Staff: Jeff Turgeon

The meeting was called to order at 8:15am by R. Lawless who welcomed all attendees and asked if any members had a potential conflict of interest. None were noted.

R. Lawless asked committee members to review the meeting minutes from the March 15, 2018 Executive Committee meeting. The minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

J. Turgeon then gave a brief update regarding the budget, noting news regarding FY 19 allocations from the State have generally been good and it was noted that a request to increase funding for the Worcester Jobs Fund is going in to City Council soon (if this gets approved, J. Turgeon will seek to increase Kelsey's salary and to expand support staff for her program implementation). It was also noted that a salary increase was submitted to the City for CMWIB program manager, Lauren Morano, now that we have received an additional state grant and are required under WIOA to perform more monitoring work. This was met with strong agreement by the committee. Federal allocation amounts have not yet been released, but cuts are anticipated.

J. Turgeon informed the committee that the regional blueprint plan was approved by state officials and he is working with them to have an official release event in conjunction with the youth GROW awards on June 4th at Worcester Technical High School. Following this event he will begin working on implementation.

J. Turgeon also reminded the committee that he is drafting the FY 19 WIOA Partner Memorandum of Understanding to incorporate state feedback from the FY 18 agreement.

J. Weekes discussed the State's rebranding initiative and informed the Committee that he and Janice are finalizing a plan to submit to the State for approval and to gain the necessary funding for the transition. The plan will also incorporate new websites utilizing the state template and assistance from a vendor that they selected for the project. IT is anticipated that the launch of the new brand will be done in early September.

J. Turgeon also gave an update on other CMWIB related programming to the committee, noting:

- Under WIOA, the CMWIB is now required to perform annual monitoring of the career center and this has been slated to begin on the week of June 4th. A review of customer files and staff/management interviews will be conducted under the guidance of state officials (who had previously conducted this monitoring). Elements of the career center certification conducted earlier this year will be incorporated into this assessment.

- J. Weekes highlighted the efforts her team is making to serve 1,100+ hurricane evacuees in our region, noting their work to reach out to evacuees living in hotels whose benefits will be ending soon. She also discussed some of the challenges involved in connecting with these clients to help them gain a path to self-sufficiency.
- J. Weekes also updated the members regarding the large job fair held at the DCU – and the success it was in connecting more than 500 job seekers with 60+ employers. J. Turgeon announced he went to the DCU and mingled with the employers in the booths and took several pictures – before realizing on his way out that he was actually at a different event because he was there on the wrong day!
- The Youth Growing and Readyng Our Workforce (GROW) awards will be held on June 4th at 3pm at WTHS. This event recognizes companies that go above and beyond to help young people prepare for careers.
- The CMWIB and Workforce Central are soon taping their 60th episode and J. Turgeon thanked Janice for her staff’s assistance with these and noted the great support they receive from the City’s cable services department which now produces, tapes, and edits each show.

R. Lawless reminded members the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on June 21, 2018 starting promptly at 8:15am at Fairlawn Rehab Hospital. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by: J. Turgeon