

**Youth Workforce Investment Council
Central MA Workforce Investment Board
December 8, 2016**

Members Present: Robin Hooper, Isidore Nosike, Carolyn Gordon, Judy Freedman Fask, Carrick O'Brien (proxy for Charla Hixson), David Trendi (proxy for Collen Lanza), Kristen Mayotte, Robert McGlory, Maurie Bergeron, John McGovern (proxy for John Trainor)

Guests: Maura Mahoney, Scott Dowling, Darlyn Llanos Jimenez

Staff Present: Jeff Turgeon, Kevin Crowley, Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves.
2. **Note of Potential Conflicts of Interest & Confirmation of Quorum:** It was announced that a quorum was present and there were no conflicts of interest.
3. **Vote:**
Approval of Minutes: The October 13, 2016 meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Judy Kirk and a second by Isidore Nosike.
4. **Presentation:** Maura Mahoney, *School Adjustment Counselor*, Worcester Public Schools
MahoneyM@worc.k12.ma.us

Maura discussed Youth Mental Health First Aid. This FREE training informs practitioners to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents ages 12-18. This training does not diagnose. Participants learn to support youth developing signs and symptoms of mental illness and emotional crisis by applying a five-step action plan. The YWIC plans to host this training in February or March. To learn more, visit www.MentalHealthFirstAid.org

5. **Presentation:** Maurie Bergeron, Director of TIL Services, LUK, Inc.
mbergeron@luk.org

Maurie highlighted the Young Parent Support and Voc/Ed, Trauma Informed Care, Harm Reduction, and Positive Youth Development programs and support services in MA. The agency serves over 2,500 clients per year. To learn more, visit <http://www.luk.org/>

6. **Testimonial:** Darlyn Llanos Jimenez, WIOA Fieldstone School Graduate

Darlyn spoke of the CNA program and stackable credentials obtained, to date. She plans to continue here education and fulfill her dream of becoming a Neurosurgeon.

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 CMWIB at 508-799-1590 or the ADA Coordinator at disabilities@worcesterma.gov.

She is currently employed at St. Mary's Health Center, Worcester, MA. Darlyn thanked the YWIC for their support in offering this training opportunity and plans to support other YWIC initiatives by volunteering her time on committees and other youth initiatives.

7. Updates:

- a. **WIOA Youth Update:** E. Gagne discussed the 4 career pathways programs and highlighted the completion of the first cohorts for CNA, Culinary, and Weatherization training programs. The Customer Service/Retails Management program is currently in their 8th week and students will complete the training in February. Successful placement occurred in all pathways programs e.g. Weatherization students are starting at \$15.00/hr.
- b. **YouthWorks:** E. Gagne mentioned the CMWIB plans to apply for a Walmart grant to support retail trade training for 10 youth.
- c. **Connecting Activities:** E. Gagne mentioned the CMWIB is working with the Worcester Business Journal to distribute free copies of their new publication "A Guide to Stuff Made in Central MA." The publication changes the image of manufacturing and raising awareness to the opportunities in our region. Several young adults are highlighted in the article. To learn more, visit www.wbjournal.comstuff
- d. **Job 1:** C. O'Brien mentioned WCAC is working on this initiative, which is aligned with the City Manager's Youth Employment Task Force. Some of the highlights of Job 1 are an outreach plan, employment opportunities, and data tracking.

8. Announcements:

Amber Polisher from the Grafton Job Corp introduced herself and announced their programs might be a good fit for local youth 16-24.

Scott Dowling from the Worcester Youth Opportunities Office announced his office opened two (2) new recreational Worcester sites and there are staff openings appropriate for youth. You can direct questions by contacting Scott at DowlingS@worcesterma.gov

9. Next Meeting:

- a. **February 9th – CMWIB, 340 Main Street, 4th Floor, Worcester, MA 01608.**

10. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*

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 CMWIB at 508-799-1590 or the ADA Coordinator at disabilities@worcesterma.gov.