

**Masshire Central Region Workforce Board
Youth Council
December 13, 2018
2:30 pm
340 Main Street, 4th Floor, Worcester, MA**

Members Present: Judy Freedman Fask, Carolyn Gordon, Robin Hooper, Howard Lucas, Kristin Mayotte, Isidore Nosike, Carrick O'Brien

Guests: Cynthia Vlasaty, Lila Pope

Staff Present: Ethan Brown, Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:34 p.m.
2. **Note of Potential Conflicts of Interest & Confirmation of Quorum:** A quorum was present. No conflicts were noted.
3. **Vote:**
October 11, 2018 Minutes: Upon a motion by Carrick O'Brien, seconded by Howard Lucas, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes.
4. **Presentation:** Ethan Brown, *Resource Development Coordinator*, MCRWB

Ethan provided information to members about the YouthWorks and STEM focused internships for high school students and requested feedback regarding employer outreach. He also provided information on the North Central partnership, Connecting Activities three year strategic blue print that includes occupational industries, Innovation Pathway Program, Blackstone Valley Fab Lab, and Amp-It-Up advanced manufacturing collaborative with QCC (Amp-It-Up funding ended).

It was mentioned that increased outreach of MCRWB's in-school programs will occur at alternative day programs. Discussion regarding internships and employment included the following recommendations a) approach the Board and provide a questionnaire to identify internship opportunities b) utilize radio/publicity and establish a process to market it to employers c) contacting National Grid to explore opportunities currently in place d) identify current occupations and organizations that provide internships, and e) recognizing employers via the GROW awards.

For additional information contact Ethan at 508-799-1590 x612 or at BrownEA@masshirecentral.com

5. **Presentation:** Kristin Mayotte, *Vice President of Strategy and Program Development*, Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc.

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Kristin provided an overview of You Inc. services and discussed the staffing shortages at residential treatment programs. An overview of the newly formed Youth and Young Adult Care Training occurred that includes FREE training to eligible youth in the WIOA programs. Training includes 72 hours of instruction, offers work experience, multiple trainings available during the year based on participant interest, salary increase of \$2.00/hr. post training, employment openings currently at Open Sky, RFK, LUK, Nazareth and YOU Inc.

For additional information contact Kate Pesa at 508-552-7300 or at PesaK@youinc.org

6. Presentation: Cynthia Vlasety, *College and Career Advisor*, TRA

Cynthia discussed the ABE & ESOL programs at TRA. The program meets 2 evenings/wk from 4:30 – 7:30 pm at 2 Foster Street, 3rd Floor, Worcester. The program occurs September – June and is FREE. The program serves all ABE and ESOL levels. There are openings in both programs.

For additional information contact Cynthia at 508-753-2991 or at cvlasaty@tra-inc.org

7. Program Updates:

- a. WIOA Youth Update:** E. Gagne mentioned DCS's provided preliminary Q4 Youth Annual Report Numbers for Central Mass.

Q2 Employment/Education:	85%
Q4 Employment/Education:	82%
Credential Attainment:	82%
Measurable Skill Gain:	69%

WIOA Central Region ranked #1 out of 16 regions in MA for producing significantly higher amounts of training and outcomes in the following categories: Entered Employments, Attained Post-secondary Credentials, Occupational Skills Training, Financial Literacy, Labor Market Leadership/Community Service, Post-secondary Prep, Education & Workplace Prep; Degrees/Certificates, Training Milestones, and Educational Achievements.

8. Announcements:

C. O'Brien mentioned YouthWorks will start mid-March for 25 youth. Ten students will continue on to YouthWorks Summer and Leadership Training. A different version of the Signal Success Curriculum will be utilized.

R. Hooper asked if anyone is interested in hosting the next YWIC meeting. Isidore Nosike offered to host the next YWIC meeting.

H. Lucas provided a flyer about the new Worcester Mobile Arts and Technology School Bus. It will feature state-of-art interactive multimedia, instructional technologies and educational resources.

Next Meeting:

- a. **February 14th – The Fieldstone School, 90 Madison Street, 2nd Floor, Worcester.**
- 9. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:55 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*