

**Masshire Central Region Workforce Board
Youth Council
April 9, 2020
2:30 pm
WebEx – Online Meeting**

Members Present: Laura Farnsworth, Judy Freedman, Robin Hooper, Colleen Lanza, Howard Lucas, Roy Lucas, Kristen Mayotte, Robert McGlory, Isidore Nosike, Carrick O’Brien, Kelly Penrod, Marci Skillings, Dave Trendi

Staff Present: Ed Gagne, Jeff Turgeon

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

Note of Potential Conflicts of Interest: C. O’Brien, I. Nosike, K. Mayotte

Approval of the February 13, 2020 Minutes: Unanimously approved upon a motion and second by members.

Discussion & Vote:

WIOA FY21 Programming: E. Gagne provided an introduction to WIOA programming and the MCRWB’s FY21 planned program highlights, youth elements, and performance indicators were reviewed. Youth Recommendations were presented that prioritize an integrated delivery system that supports qualitative academic and career pathway certificate training programs with attainment of a state recognized credential and outcomes to the following entities: The Fieldstone School, Worcester Community Action Council, and Youth Opportunities Upheld.

Vote: Upon a motion, the group unanimously voted to approve the recommendations from the FY21 Youth Proposal Review Team.

Program Updates (E. Gagne)

- a. YouthWorks (YW) - The year-round 2019/20 grant was designed to support career readiness training and subsidized employment placements for 20 youth from the Worcester Public Schools’ Innovation Pathway after-school program in manufacturing. Due to the pandemic 12 youth will participate in extended online work readiness classwork and project work 10-12 hours/wk. and receive a \$120 weekly stipend.

YouthWorks (YW) Summer - 2020 YW is planned to provide 342 youth paid experience – broken into three “tiers” of participation: 64 youth in the Service and Project-Based Learning Tier (project based learning under the guidance of a

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community partner organization for a weekly \$100 stipend). 266 youth in the Early and Career Trajectory Employment Experiences Tier (paid work experience at local employer host sites in Worcester, Webster and Southbridge – approx. 22 hours per week X \$12.75 X 6 weeks), and 12 youth in the Career Pathway Programming and Support Tier (students from WPS Innovation Pathways IT program; paid work at local IT employers - approx. 22 hours per week X \$12.75 X 6 weeks).

- b. Connecting Activities - designed to help increase student career readiness through the brokering of internships, part-time jobs, job shadowing, job fairs and other activities to help high school students better understand the workplace. Currently, due to the pandemic, program staff are working to strengthen procedures, support materials, and planning online professional development for school partner staff.

Next Meeting:

a. **June 11, 2020 , 340 Main Street, Suite 400, Coghlin Room, Worcester, MA**

2. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*