

CENTRAL MA. WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
Quarterly Board Meeting
July 21, 2011

The following members/proxies were present: D. Anderson; T. Bauer; D. Bono; M. Boone; G. Carberry;; J. Froimson; J. Dagilis; S. Gately; L. Parady (for J.Healy); K. Hurrell (for P. LaFleur); K. LaTulippe; R. Lawless (Chair); P. Morano; D. Perro; R. Scrivens; T. Stone; D. Wallace; D. Osborn; D. Post; J. Poteete; J. Mello; T. Provost; M. Richman; P. Mullarley; R. Scott

The following members were not in attendance: B. Allen; D. Bono; M.Boone; G. Carmark; L. Cooper; J. Hamerly; D. Penta; C. Richard; P. Rogers; L. Miller; J. Healy; D. Hennessy; R. Thomas; C. Carlson; P. Soucy; J. Zimatravich; R. Kennedy; P. Gilbody

The following CMREB staff members were present: J. Turgeon; L. Oden; R. Zukowski.; S. McGauley

Guest(s) present:

1. Call to Order, Announcement of Quorum & Note of Conflict of Interest:

There being a quorum, R. Lawless called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. There were no conflicts of interested noted at this time. R. Lawless introduced Bay Path Superintendent, David Papagni who welcomed the board and briefly talked about the projects the school has been involved in.

2. Vote:

a. Approval of April 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes:

Upon a motion by D. Wallace and a second, the April 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Committee Updates

a. Executive Committee

J. Turgeon directed the committee's attention to the Annual Plan Executive Summary (see Handouts) highlighting the major points. The summary outlined the changes in funding for FY12 including a 21% cut to WIA Title I Dislocated Worker; 9.9% cut to WIA Title I Adult; .4% cut to Wagner Peysers; and a 100% cut to Re-employment Services (RES/ARRA). Despite these cuts, Workforce Central is hoping that these cuts can be somewhat offset by funds from the Rapid Response Set Aside funds which will help those laid off from Evergreen Solar. For FY12, the CMWIB is taking the following actions regarding WIA Adults and Dislocated Workers:

- Transferring \$100,000 from Adult funds to Dislocated Worker funds in recognition of continued high demand from dislocated workers for training, and higher average tuition costs for training selected by higher skilled, laid off workers.
- Authorizing a bid process to identify a provider for a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) /Skills Enhancement program in the Southbridge area for WIA Adults and Dislocated Workers. This

action is in recognition of need in the area for these services, the CMWIB's targeting rural, low income individuals and the growing importance of a GED as a work-related credential.

- Setting a cap of \$5,000 for Individual Training Account contracts for FY12 (reduced from \$6,000 in FY11).
- Increasing the amount of the Ride to Work support service for WIA job attainers from \$25 to \$50 value gas cards to offset transportation costs in the first weeks of employment prior to receiving their first check.

R. Lawless announced that Sharon Arnold, long time staff member of the CMWIB and the City of Worcester has retired. The CMWIB would like to thank her for her dedicated service and wish her well in her future endeavors (a farewell party was given in Sharon's honor a week prior to the full board meeting).

The Executive Committee invited Nancy Jackson, a consultant working with the Massachusetts WIB Association, to the last Executive Committee meeting to discuss the role of the committee and flow of information. R. Lawless explained that the meeting helped clarify that communication between the committees is key and that they need to continue posting the meeting minutes online in a timely manner.

The committee has also been working to identify new members to be in accordance with the required 51% private sector membership outlined in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). R. Scott and P. Mullarkey were introduced as new members to the CMWIB. Both introduced themselves and were welcomed by the board.

Action: The committee discussed adding ad-hoc members to the CMWIB committees as appropriate. All ad-hoc recommendations should be sent to J. Turgeon at TurgeonJ@worcesterma.gov.

Action: M. Richman will work to try and set up a meeting for potential membership with a representative from Consigli Construction.

Action: T. Stone will speak with the school administration to see if she can help set up a meeting for potential membership with a representative from Goya Foods.

b. Career Center/Adult Career Services Committee

D. Perro reported that the RFP for a GED program in the Southbridge, MA area went out and a bidder's conference was held. The committee has been looking into the JobConnect model used in Georgia which allows participants to receive an unemployment check while still participating in an internship to keep skills sharp and oftentimes get a foot in the door; D. Anderson noted that there is a very slim chance that this model will be accepted in Massachusetts. The Career Center/CMWIB are

still waiting while the City of Worcester searches through its properties to determine if they may own a property that would fulfill their needs. In the meantime leases are being extended.

c. Youth Council

R. Scott reported that the Youth Council has voted to approve the Youth Annual Plan. The committee is still working on the JobOne initiative and hopes to fully launch the effort within the coming months. The state has begun planning for a state-wide youth employment marketing effort and has asked the regional areas to provide feedback regarding their local programs.

The Youth Council has also been working on a concept to better align the CMWIB's youth programming with other programs and stakeholders in the community to make sure organizations are aware of the other programs available and to ensure that local youth don't "fall through the cracks."

After some discussion, the board tasked the Youth Council with putting together correspondence to our state officials to inquire about a former state-database, MISER.

d. Cultural Competency Advisory Committee

J. Poteete reported that the CCAC released an RFP for a Committee Facilitator and have since chosen AK Consulting's proposal. The Committee will be meeting on August 2nd, which will be the committee's first meeting with AK Consulting in the facilitator role. The Committee is interested in expanding membership, so all those interested in joining the committee should contact Jeff Turgeon at TurgeonJ@Worcesterma.gov.

4. Program Updates

a. Summer Youth Employment and Connecting Activities

J. Turgeon reviewed this year's summer jobs program (see Handouts). With funding coming from YouthWorks FY'11 Supplemental, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), and YouthWorks FY'12, the programming will be serving 500 youth. The programming has already started and additional youth funded through the YouthWorks FY'12 funding hope to start on Monday, July 25th.

b. STEM Pathways

L. Oden reviewed the STEMPower Update (see Handouts). The STEM job placements portion continues to be strong with over 270 job placements. With the grant winding down, focus has shifted more towards the remaining participants to see them through the remainder of the program. Staff has also started looking at sustainability for the program.

c. WTF (Workforce Training Fund)

J. Turgeon reported that the Central MA. Region had 6 applications that were recommended to the state. Generally only about 50% of these recommendations get funding approved from the state level. Staff is expecting another round in roughly 2-3 months.

5. Legislative & Budget Update

J. Turgeon updated the board on the recent state funded budget items that have just recently been announced. The board reviewed the Workforce Solutions Group Fiscal Year 2012 Workforce Budget Sheet (see Handouts).

6. Other Business

a. State 21st Century Workforce System Initiative

J. Turgeon briefly described the new initiative to review the public workforce system by the MA EOLWD, more information to come.

b. Labor Market Snapshot Discussion

J. Turgeon referred members to the handout regarding the current state of our local Labor Market (see Handouts). As the meeting end time was approaching it was decided that a complete discussion should be held at the next meeting.

7. Adjournment

Upon a motion by D. Wallace and a second, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sean McGauley
*Communications, Operations and
Administrative Specialist*