

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board
Jan. 16, 2020 8:30 AM
340 Main Street, Suite 400 Worcester, MA 01608

Meeting Minutes

The following members/proxies were present: Rosalie Lawless (Chair); Paul Gilbody (Vice Chair); James Chabot (proxy for J. Weekes); Leslie Baker; Joshua Froimson; Leslie Parady; Ethan Brown; Lisa Derby Oden (proxy for K. Mahoney); Edward Bartkiewicz; Joyce Clemence; Don Prsecott; Alex Guardiola; Connie Mellis

Guests/Staff: J. Turgeon (MCRWB); Bruce Mendelsohn (MCRWB); Steve McClure (Tasks For Transit); Derek Kalchbrenner (MA DESE); Mary Basilone (Mass RideShare); H. Kay Howard (Third Sector); Temi Dydwe-Carrington (Third Sector); Emma Goodman (Third Sector)

Call to Order, Announcement of Quorum & Note of Conflict of Interest: R. Lawless called the meeting to order at 8:38 AM, and asked the members if anyone wished to note any conflicts of interest on the agenda. None were noted, and she welcomed all the attendees.

Approval of October 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion and second by members.

R. lawless then asked the attendees to introduce themselves and reminded all members to complete their conflict of interest acknowledgement form, copies of which were in the back of the room.

P. Gilbody then brought forth the matter of electing the Board Chair and called for nominations. L. Parady nominated Rosalie Lawless, and it was seconded by J. Froimson. R. lawless accepted the nomination. P. Gilbody then asked for any additional nominations and hearing none, called for a motion to close nominations and elect R. lawless as Chair for the coming calendar year. The motion was made by J. Froimson and seconded by L. Parady and passed unanimously. The members then congratulated Rosalie and she thanked them for their continued confidence.

FY20 Budget Update: J. Turgeon noted for members that the FY 20 budget summary chart was in their meeting packets and reviewed the elements of this chart, highlighting that it summarized funding streams grouped by their source and also described their use. It also details the funds granted in previous few years to help readers see trends and funding patterns. Lastly, he noted that while federal funding has been trending down overall, state funding is increasing due to a strong workforce commitment from the statehouse and Governor's office, but funding from non-public sources remains very limited.

R. Lawless introduced the new MCRWB Resource Development Coordinator, Bruce Mendelsohn, and also referenced the fact that his predecessor, Ethan Brown, was now joining the board in his new capacity as a grants compliance manager for the City of Worcester's Economic Development office. E. Brown, then discussed with members his new role and projects he is involved with, including overseeing compliance with hiring goals on the construction of the new baseball stadium.

R. Lawless then asked James Chabot to provide an update for the career center. J. Chabot informed the Board that the career center's business services department is finally fully staffed with the hiring of a

supervisor, Jibrael Younis, as well as a new Business Services Representative, Yesenia Aponte. He also announced the expansion of the state-funded Access To Recovery (ATR) program that helps get people with addition issues get ready for re-entering the workplace and the this has allowed them to hire a new counselor.

J. Turgeon invited members to review the program updates report in their meeting packet. He highlighted several programs that are currently running, including the Pharmacy Technician training now recruiting for its upcoming session starting next month, and the Worcester Jobs Fund is now recruiting for construction pre-apprentice training (Building Pathways) and a medical office administration training. He also discussed the status of all three regional blueprint workforce consortia (healthcare, manufacturing, and transportation/warehousing/logistics) that are up and running. He also informed the Board that planning for this summer's state-funded YouthWorks program has been underway and community sessions have been conducted. This year's project is being aligned with the Year-Round YouthWorks program and so the planning work and application submission to the funders at the Commonwealth Corporation is a bit more complicated than in the past. The Commonwealth is also emphasizing the summer program offerings for 14 and 15 year olds using community service projects, which is a new component for the program. The MCRWB will be working with community partners and WCAC to identify projects that would be a good fit.

J. Turgeon then asked members to review the list of administrative tasks the Board is responsible for in the coming year, including a strategic review, a revision of the regional blueprint, career center monitoring and certification, and the WIOA Youth services procurement, and the career center procurement. He noted the WIOA Youth RFP would be issued in the very near future and posted via the City's website. J. Turgeon will be sending out an email to the Board to give them more details about the strategic plan review and how they may get involved.

R. Lawless then introduced Ms. Mary Basilone from Mass RideShare who gave a presentation about this program and how members may use their service to identify available transportation options for whatever destination in the Commonwealth they wished to visit. Members discussed with her various aspects of Mass RideShare and of particular note was how employers may use it to assist their staff with travel to and from work. S. McClure also informed members of how his program, tasks For Transit, helps people cover that critical gap between getting a new job and getting their first paycheck and the costs with travelling to work if you do not have access to a vehicle. His organization hands out packets through partner non-profit organizations, that include bus passes so that people can cover this gap.

R. Lawless then introduced our next guest presenter, Derek Kalchbrenner, from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) who discussed his office's workplace literacy grant program, which supports literacy and English language education onsite at the workplace, that will soon be issuing and Request For Proposals to support local projects. J. Turgeon noted there have been limited such projects in the past within our region and it would be good to help access these resources locally if possible.

R. Lawless then asked attendees if anyone had any announcements. No announcements were made.

Adjournment: upon a motion by L. Parady, a second by E. Brown, and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56am. R. Lawless thanked all for their attendance.

The next MCRWB full board meeting is Thursday, April 16, 2020.

Respectfully drafted by, J. Turgeon; MCRWB