

**Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board
Career Center/Adult Career Services Committee
340 Main Street Suite 400, Worcester, MA 01608
July 24, 2018
3:00 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Joshua Froimson (Chair), George Cortes, Karen King, Leslie Baker, Ted Bauer, Leslie Parady (Co-Chair), Sandra Foley

Staff in Attendance: Ethan Brown (CMWIB), Jeff Turgeon (CMWIB), Jennithan Cortes (WCCC) and Deborah Baillargeon (WCC)

J. Froimson welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 3:01pm. No conflicts of interest were noted.

J. Froimson - A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda which included the May 8, 2018 Committee Meeting Minutes. The vote passed unanimously.

J. Turgeon informed the Committee that the CMWIB will be facilitating a workshop at the Worcester and Southbridge Career Centers on the Gig Economy and shared the PowerPoint Presentation with the Committee. The first workshops are expected to take place by mid-August. Committee members had questions about how Gig jobs affect UI for individuals. J. Turgeon has asked S. Foley to provide language regarding UI that can be added to the presentation.

J. Turgeon provided an update on the MassHire Rebranding effort. The Brand Ambassador group has been meeting monthly and has scheduled staff training on the changes for August 24th. Staff have added language to their email signatures indicating the change in name. The Central MA Workforce Investment Board will become the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board. Full launch will take place on September 6th with a visit from Secretary Rosalin Acosta. A video developed by the Department of Career Services was shared with the Committee.

J. Cortes provided an update on the BEST and Career Center operations. There was a system-wide data crash that has affected various databases used by career centers across the state such as MOSES for case management, Mass.gov employment/job data and online job boards like JobQuest. To address the issue, State partners have introduced a cloud-based information system Amazon Workspace. The State had already planned to introduce this system, but the crash required they do this sooner and on a larger scale. The system is helpful, but is not a complete or perfect solution. Staff have resorted to using spreadsheets to record information that can be added to the system at a later date. Staff are slowly getting back online. Prior to the crash, BEST saw improvements in the number of referrals despite being down one Business Services Representative (the search for a new BSR has been put on hold due to the data crash). J. Cortes was asked to let the Committee know how it can support the referral process. Cortes informed the Committee that Job Days are taking place the last Friday of every month with an average of 20 employers participating. The UnCommon Job Fair will take place September 21st at the City Hall Oval.

J. Turgeon confirmed that the Slack, a cloud-based team collaboration tool is being piloted by members of the MassBizworks group. The Committee confirmed the tool could be a way to

support and merge Slack and the Employer Resource Center idea. J. Turgeon will provide an update in the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the issue of increasing labor force participation rates by identifying those individuals who are no longer a part of the work force; either because they are working under the table, have significant barriers to employment or are affected by the Cliff Effect. We need to develop the value proposition for each group in favor of returning to the workforce (for some groups, this may not be possible). The Committee identified next steps that include developing a white paper for review.

ACTION: S. Foley will provide language regarding the effects of Gig Economy job on unemployment insurance to be added to the CMWIB workshop PowerPoint presentation.

ACTION: J. Turgeon will provide an update on the use of the Slack tool.

ACTION: J. Froimson, E. Brown and J. Turgeon will find research regarding labor force participation at the national and/or state level and develop a white paper for the Committee to review. E. Brown will contact local colleges/universities to assist with the development of the white paper.

J. Froimson announced the next Committee meeting will be on September 11, 2018.

With that, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Ethan Brown

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