

**Masshire Central Region Workforce Board  
Youth Council  
February 14, 2019  
2:30 pm  
340 Main Street, Suite 400, Worcester**

**Members Present:** Doug Daigle, Deb Feraco, Carolyn Gordon, Robin Hooper, Howard Lucas, Robert McGlory, Isidore Nosike, Kelly Penrod, Dave Trendi (Proxy for Colleen Lanza),  
**Guests:** Nicole Brodie, Erica Torres  
**Staff Present:** Ed Gagne

**Meeting Minutes**

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:35 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 Carolyn Gordon, seconded by Deb Feraco, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes.
4. **Presentation:**  
Nicole Brodie, *Independent Living Service Manager*, Center for Living & Working  
Erica Torres, *Youth Service Manager*, Center for Living & Working

Erica and Nicole provided highlights of CLW services that include creating opportunities to promote independence and to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve their maximum level of independent functioning within their families and/or communities. Five core services occur at the agency: Information and Referral, Skills Training, Peer Counseling, Advocacy (individual and community), and Transition Services. Pre-ETS services include job exploration counseling, self-advocacy & mentoring, workplace readiness training, post-secondary education counseling, and work-based learning (internships).

The agency is located at 484 Main Street, Suite 345, Worcester, MA. Telephone: 508-798-0350. Website: [www.centerlw.org](http://www.centerlw.org)

5. **Program Updates (E. Gagne):**
  - a. **WIOA Youth Update:** Reviewed the Masshire Workforce Board Conflict of Interest Policy and Code of Conduct Procedure Statement Policy. Members were asked to review and return Attachments B & C.
  - b. **STEM Focused Internships:** Discussed how program partners will expand the resource guide to include additional STEM industries and network with school internship coordinators to identify resources needed to support paid internships.

*The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability, The MCRWB will provide auxiliary aids and service, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon advance request. Please contact MCRWB at 508-799-1590 or the ADA Coordinator at [disabilities@worcesterma.gov](mailto:disabilities@worcesterma.gov).*

Information will be featured on the MCRWB's Working Lunch Radio program and will be shared with MassHire Career Center employer recruitment staff.

- c. **Connecting Activities:** Efforts occur to increase the number of high school students who take part in paid STEM internships that includes career exploration and awareness.
  - d. **YouthWorks:** WCAC extended recruitment for the year round Youthworks program. The Youth Jobs Statehouse Rally (February 21<sup>st</sup>). YouthWorks kick-off is scheduled the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- 6. Announcements:**
- D. Daigle mentioned Training Resources of America (TRA) received funding to provide services to 60 youth in the Construction/Building Trades and Nurse Assistant/Home Health Aide Training. For additional information contact: TRA at 508-753-2991.
- R. Hooper discussed the Free Tax Service available to qualifying households with income less than \$54,000. Appointments occur at the following locations: Plumley Village, Main South CDC, Worcester Community Action Council, and Worcester State University Center for Service Learning.
- H. Lucas provided information about the digital learning STEM bus that provides homework assistance and tutoring. He also discussed Urban Agriculture Training that he is working on with various community organization, training providers, and private employers.
- E. Gagne highlighted the free SNAP application assistance at the MCRWB and the short term training opportunities for recipients receiving SNAP benefits: PCA, CNA, EMT, Medical Assistant, Ophthalmic Assistant, Veterinary Assistant, and Sterile Processing Technician. It was also mentioned that the MHWCC Job Fair will occur May 9<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 3pm at the DCU Center.

**Next Meeting:**

- a. **April 11<sup>th</sup> – Easter Seals, 484 Main Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Worcester.**
- 7. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Ed Gagne*

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