

**Masshire Central Region Workforce Board
Youth Council
December 12, 2019
2:30 pm
MassHire Central, 340 Main Street, Suite 400, Worcester, MA**

Members Present: Judy Freedman, Robin Hooper, Kristen Mayotte, Robert McGlory, Isidore Nosike, , Kelly Penrod, Lila Pope (proxy for Carrick O'Brien)

Staff Present: Ed Gagne

Guest: Mikayla Tucker, Karen Myhaver

Meeting Minutes

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

Note of Potential Conflicts of Interest: None were noted

Approval of the October 10, 2019 Minutes: meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion and second by members.

Presentation: Amparo Cruz, Director of Education and Outreach, Pathways for Change, Inc.

Amparo discussed services at Pathways for Change. The agency provides multicultural services to those whose lives have been impacted by sexual violence. They provide education geared toward ending violence, serving Central Massachusetts. Services include: 24 hour crisis intervention, support groups, counseling and advocacy for Survivors of sexual assault and abuse as well as prevention education, professional training and community outreach to neighborhoods, organizations, churches, schools, and collaborations with other agencies.

Program Updates

- a. WIOA: E. Gagne indicating the FY21 RFP will be released in the near future, TBA. This is a 2 year RFP. Volunteers who have no conflict of interest and want to be on the review team can contact the MCRWB prior to March 16th. The Board's 4 Year Strategic Plan (SP) has been submitted to the Commonwealth. We are awaiting feedback if we need to create and/or update the Youth Work Plan or if the broad information included in the SP will suffice, TBA. MCRWB staff created career pathway charts for in-demand industries located on the Board's website. YWIC members provided feedback regarding the charts to include e.g. non-HS diploma training opportunities, add another column to include employer in the area, distribute to guidance counselors at high schools, and laminate it. Feedback will be shared with staff. We will keep members informed when final charts are updated and available to the public.
- b. YouthWorks (YW): L. Pope discussed the Innovation Pathways Program. The prior IT experience went well. This year, fifteen youth will participate in a 80-90 hour manufacturing cohort from March – May. Students receive 25 hours of Signal Success training.

E. Gagne indicated planning currently in place for next year's YW program that may include multi-year programming. The combined RFP utilizes local allocation for community service

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for youth ages 14-15. Students will start with summer employment then move to non-subsidized private sector employment.

- c. Connecting Activities: E. Gagne mentioned continued efforts occur to spread the word about career training and job opportunities after graduation for students not planning to attend college. Working with Blackstone Valley Education Foundation to launch a pilot after school readiness academy.

Announcements:

L. Pope mentioned WCAC will have a “Meet and Greet” at WCAC on the first floor of the Denholm Building, 484 Main Street on December 13th from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. It’s an opportunity to meet the new Director/Marybeth Campbell and learn about WCAC’s programs.

E. Gagne mentioned Building Pathways and Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable FREE training programs.

Next Meeting:

- a. **February 13, 2020 , 340 Main Street, Suite 400, Coghlin Room, Worcester, MA**
2. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:40 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*