

**MassHire Central Region Workforce Board
Youth Council**

February 9, 2023

2:30 pm

Conducted by WebEx:

<https://cow.webex.com/cow/j.php?MTID=m693215317c954b866cb5a0a9c18c8fe0>

Meeting number (access code): 172 319 7694; Meeting password: kiBvyPs78a3

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Members Present: Rebecca Brownstein, Robin Hooper, Howard Lucas, Kristen Mayotte, Robert McGlory, Kate Pesa, Kim Stowe, David Trendi.

Staff Present: Jeff Turgeon, Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of the December 8, 2022 Minutes: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Dave Trendi.

Presentation

Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) – Rebecca Brownstein, Senior Enrollment Counselor, provided an overview of QCC – who they are, what they can do for you, open enrollment process, academics/120 degrees and certificates, affordability, flexible scheduling options, advising, college transfer, financial aid, and the new vaccine policy,

To learn more go to [Quinsigamond Community College \(qcc.edu\)](https://qcc.edu). Rebecca can be reached atrbrownstein@qcc.mass.edu.

Program Updates

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (K. Pesa)

Kate shared practices in place to best support participants struggling with new challenges, gaps in education, and social integration highlighting:

- **Leadership Skills** - field trips, college tours, and volunteering in the community to promote socialization, confidence building, and positive interactions.
- **Workshops** - communication, social skills, problem solving, and decision making activities to help students develop skills to overcome barriers.

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- **Academic** - 5 min warmups/writing prompts, crash course on related GED topics, ice breakers on current events, and trivia/games to build general knowledge.

For additional information on any of the above, Kate can be reached at kpesa@sevenhills.org

YouthWorks (YW) (E Gagne, J Turgeon)

- WCAC placed 100 youth in a 6 week internship program.
- An additional 220 high school seniors are participating in paid internships at various schools.
- This year there are some major changes to the YW program by Comm Corp. The changes include the need to prioritize older youth with an increase in hourly wages.
- Approximately 60 youth will be placed in STEM related worksites this spring funded through DESE.
- The summer program virtual community partner meeting is scheduled for February 28th at 1:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Connecting Activities (E. Gagne)

- Implemented a new afterschool program at South HS providing career readiness.
- In April, our partners at the Blackstone Valley Ed Foundation (BVEF) are planning a career fair for HS seniors who are not planning to attend college.
- We have applied, through DESE, to obtain funding to support the purchase of Virtual Reality headsets to pilot new programming at BVEF.
- We requested funds to support a manufacturing employer event to promote school-to-career placements on March 16th at Holy Cross College, and we requested funds to support a new position at the Chamber focused on employer outreach and connections to area high schools.

Council Announcements

No Council announcements.

Next Meeting

April 13, 2023, conducted by WebEx. Information provided on page 1.

Adjourn

Hearing no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm upon a motion by Kristen Mayotte.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*

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