

**Masshire Central Region Workforce Board
Youth Council
2:30 pm
August 9, 2018
340 Main Street, 4th Floor, Worcester, MA**

Members Present: Deb Feraco, Charla Hixson (proxy for Carrick O'Brien), Robin Hooper, Collen Lanza, Howard Lucas, Roy Lucas (proxy for Janice Weekes), Robert McGlory, Kelly Penrod, Shalesha Smith.

Guests: Dawn Kiritsis, Laura Tino

Staff Present: Jeff Turgeon, Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves.
2. **Note of Potential Conflicts of Interest & Confirmation of Quorum:** It was announced that a quorum was present. No conflicts were noted.
3. **Vote:**
Approval of Minutes: The April 12, 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Rob McGlory and a second by Deb Feraco.
4. **Presentation:** Dawn Kiritsis, *College and Career Navigator*, Quinsigamond Community College

Dawn highlighted the Dental Assistant Certificate program at QCC. The program prepares students to obtain employment as a dental assistant and to take the National Board exam in order to achieve the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) designation. The program is approved for ITA's through Workforce Central Career Center. Approximate salary in Central MA in 2018 after completing the nine (9) month training program is \$42,000/yr. There is no wait list, and there are more jobs than there are students. There is an 18% industry growth rate, and there is the option to bridge CDA to the Dental Hygiene program.

For additional information on any of QCC's program Dawn can be reached at KiritsisD@workforcecentralma.org

5. **Presentation:** Laura Tino, *Director of Testing*, Quinsigamond Community College

Laura reviewed the differences between the HiSET and the new GED test. Students now have the option of taking either test in Massachusetts. The GED is closely aligned to the College and Career Readiness Standards and the MCAS 2.0, and it is more complex in terms of questions when compared to the HiSET. Students are required to bring the same ID they registered with to the exam. Laura also discussed placement testing at QCC and

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability, The CMWIB 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 CMWIB at 508-799-1590 or the ADA Coordinator at disabilities@worcesterma.gov.

highlighted Accuplacer test preparation and scoring, disability arrangements, and how the test is used to place students. Online study guides are available at www.QCC.edu/testing

For additional information on testing and placement at QCC contact Laura at ltino@qcc.mass.edu

6. Program Updates:

- a. **WIOA Youth Update:** E. Gagne mentioned that DCS's MOSES data entry system was inoperative for 6 weeks. Over the past two weeks staff entered data to ensure the next reporting cycle reflects current program certificates, outcomes and our SDA's cumulative performance. Members were provided the Department of Career Services FY18 Quarter Report Ending March 31, 2018.
- b. **YouthWorks (YW) Summer:** C. Hixson mentioned approximately 350 youth were served (18 in Southbridge and 9 slots privately funded in Worcester). The Shannon Grant and Mass Housing contributed to Worcester's overall work experience slots. Twenty-three students participated in the Worcester Leadership Institute. It was also mentioned that WCAC plans to provide Bank On Worcester County with Bay State Savings Bank, Cornerstone Bank, DCU, and UniBank.
- c. **YouthWorks (YW) Year Round:** E. Gagne mentioned last year the CMWIB received a grant that provided occupational skills training to eleven youth. The stackable credential training program provided Certified Nurse Assistant, EKG, and Phlebotomy. This year the CMWIB applied for a grant to provide work experience combined with leadership training from the Signal Success work-readiness curriculum. Participants enrolled in the FY19 YW program will have the opportunity to continue their work experience in the summer of 2019.
- d. **Connecting Activities:** E. Gagne mentioned approximately eight hundred and thirty seven (837) students from nine (9) Worcester high schools participated in the Opportunity Fair. The Fair is designed to engage students who are not going to college. Community and workforce partners shared information about low-cost or free occupational skill trainings that provide entry-level skills in a variety of industries with the opportunity to earn a living wage. C. Lanza mentioned it was well planned and organized and that Job Corp received referrals from the event.

7. Announcements:

H. Lucas discussed the new technology and automation at My Choice and the facilities desire to expand other crops. My Choice is focusing on local job and food growth to support colleges, universities, and hospitals to avoid the local necessity of obtaining food from other states that support community needs.

D. Feraco highlighted the manufacturing training at Webster Public School (WPS) in collaboration with Bay Path. The program currently has a 100% placement rate, 80% exam pass rate, and plans to add MACWIC Level 2 training. It was also mentioned that Webster Public Schools received an award through

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability, The CMWIB 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 CMWIB at 508-799-1590 or the ADA Coordinator at disabilities@worcesterma.gov.

DESE to provide three (3) HiSET and two (2) ESOL classes in Southbridge. E. Gagne mentioned that Webster's new program will significantly contribute to the low level and intermediate level literacy needs in Southbridge since the WIOA HiSET program closed in that area due to limited candidates that meet the minimum literacy level to enter the program.

R. Hooper mentioned that Plumley Village works with AllCom Credit Union. They provided \$25 to youth who open a bank account. Youth have the App on their cell phones and have benefited from opening the account. For many, this is their first introduction to saving.

C. Lanza highlighted the Department of Labor approved the following trade changes for Grafton Job Corps to take effect late Fall:

- Addition of a Manufacturing program- partnering with Blackstone Valley Chamber and MassMEP
- Doubling Electrical Wiring program slots and adding 2nd Instructor
- Ending the Building Construction Technology/Facilities Maintenance program.

E. Gagne mentioned he participated with DESE in the review of the Adult Education proposals in Central MA. Programs receiving Integrated Education and Training funds include: Quinsigamond Community offering Nursing Assistants and Accountant and Auditors, Webster Public Schools in collaboration with Bay Path will offer Machinists Tool and Die – Manufacturing Advancement Center Workforce Innovation Collaborative (MACWIC) Level 1 & 2, and Worcester Public Schools Adult Learning Center in collaboration with Worcester Technical High Schools will provide Machinists Tool and Die – MACWIC Level 1 and National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS). ABE & ESOL training grants were awarded to Quinsigamond Community College, Ascentria, Worcester Public Schools Adult Learning Center, Webster Public School, and Training Resources of America.

Next Meeting:

- a. **October 11th – CMWIB, 340 Main Street, 4th Floor, Worcester, MA 01608.**
8. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 4:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability, The CMWIB 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 CMWIB at 508-799-1590 or the ADA Coordinator at disabilities@worcesterma.gov.