

Masshire Central Region Workforce Board

Youth Council

October 8, 2020

2:30 pm

Conducted by WebEx:

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

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Members Present: Kathe Coll, Laura Farnsworth, Judy Freedman, Robin Hooper, Colleen Lanza, Roy Lucas, Kristen Mayotte, Robert McGlory, Isidore Nosike, Kelly Penrod, Marci Skillings, Dave Trendi (proxy for Colleen Lanza)

Guest Present: Amber Polisher

Staff Present: Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of the February 13, 2020 Minutes: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from David Trendi, and a second by Judy Freedman.

Presentation

Masshire Central FY21-22 Strategic Alignment Plan: E. Gagne provided an overview of the Strategic Plan; committees, Region Structure 3, priority and critical industry clusters, priority occupations, goals, strategies and progress of the regional blueprint, COVID-19 impact, and YWIC goals. Discussion occurred whereby members shared their thoughts and provided feedback.

Program Updates (E. Gagne)

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Program adaptation occurred during COVID to accommodate student needs. Programs continue to offer remote and in-person instruction and services following the Commonwealth’s guidelines. Outreach occurred to local ABE providers to accommodate HiSET testing and, if necessary, will provide 1/1 testing. Bay Path currently has openings to accommodate test takers. DPH Nurse Aide plans to resume CNA testing and is under review for approval; an announcement with a “restart” date will occur soon. The MA Nurse Aid website will have an alert with updates. Advisories will be sent to all approved CNA programs in MA.

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.

MassHire Central is a pilot program for **Skillbase** – a workforce initiative at Harvard that is a collaborative project between the Malcolm Wiener Center for social policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, the Managing the Future of Work Project at Harvard Business School, and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Skillbase is created and run by a group of Harvard students, graduates and faculty with experience in education, technology, business, and job training. For further information and to access this resource go to:
<https://skillbase.hks.harvard.edu/>

MassHire Career Centers will be the core resource for assisting individuals to access **Coursera** training courses. Implementation of Coursera supports the building of a twenty-first century workforce, a goal in the 2020 WIOA State Plan, by providing job seekers with access to remote learning, training and certification. Coursera is offering 50,000 free licenses to individuals who are unemployed as a result of COVID-19 and includes job seekers who cannot find a job and job seekers who were laid-off or furloughed as a result of the pandemic. An individual does not have to be an unemployment insurance claimant to participate. Coursera is a nationally known on-line provider of thousands of courses covering basic skills to advanced business, professional and technical degrees, job search and workplace strategies. Coursera is an online learning and skill-building platform. Credential attainment is available in several key industries. Contact the Career Center for further information.

YouthWorks (YW) Summer - 2020 YW provided 277 youth paid experience – broken into three “tiers” of participation: youth in the Service and Project-Based Learning Tier (project based learning under the guidance of a community partner organization for a weekly \$100 stipend). Youth in the Early and Career Trajectory Employment Experiences Tier (paid work experience at local employer host sites in Worcester, Webster and Southbridge – approx. 22 hours per week X \$12.75 X 6 weeks), and youth in the Career Pathway Programming and Support Tier (students from WPS Innovation Pathways IT program; paid work at local IT employers - approx. 22 hours per week X \$12.75 X 6 weeks).

Connecting Activities – On October 19th – 24th, MAKE IT IN MASSACHUSETTS Virtual Manufacturing Day will take place. MassHire Workforce Boards across the state are providing an opportunity for students to experience how science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) is making manufacturing cutting edge in Massachusetts. This event is supported by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Governor Baker’s office. Both Governor Baker and Secretary Peyser will be providing brief keynotes. The event is based on the annual, national movement for manufacturers, educators, and community leaders to host events that raise awareness of advanced technology in the world of manufacturing and post-secondary careers utilizing these emerging technologies. It will take place during STEM week (October 19-24, 2020), it is FREE, comes with a lesson plan for teachers with learning experiences for students. It is designed to fit into a single class period at any time or day, it can be plugged into a remote, hybrid, or in person content delivery model, takes approximately 45 minutes for a student to complete activities, includes a certificate of completion for each student, and it includes weeklong access to the MakeitinMA.com website that covers content in technology to engage students in robotics, 3D printing, engineering/design, highlights of MA manufactured products and more.

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Next Meeting

December 10, 2020, conducted by WebEx. Information provided at the top of page one of this document.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:40 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*