

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board

Youth Council

February 12, 2021

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: Robin Hooper, Colleen Lanza, Roy Lucas, Kristen Mayotte, Isidore Nosike, Kelly Penrod, Marci Skillings, Julie Taka, Dave Trendi (proxy for Colleen Lanza)

Guest Present: Dawn Buddington, Alex Gariepy, Jodi Miteva, Julie Pace, Amber Polisher

Staff Present: Ed Gagne

Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of the December 10, 2020 Minutes: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Kristen Mayotte and a second by David Trendi.

Presentation

Close Up – Julie Pace and Jodi Miteva highlighted since 1971, [Close Up](#) provided services to nearly one million students and educators. Services demonstrated that training is impactful and empowering for in-school and out-of-school youth. Statistics show effective civic learning results in students less likely to drop out of school, increases student confidence in their ability to speak publicly and communicate with their elected representatives. Additionally, students who receive both traditional and interactive civics education score highest on assessments and demonstrate excellent critical thinking skills, news comprehension, and a strong work ethic.

Close Up’s virtual civic education opportunities are designed for middle, high school, and out-of-school students who participate in youth programming. The programs meet some elements under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) section 129(c)(2).

Program Updates (E. Gagne)

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Youth performance for the period ending September 30, 2020 ranks Central at the top in all categories. Considering the challenges faced with the pandemic and quick implementation of new systems in place to ensure program services were not interrupted, data entry via our sub-contracts streamlined, and processes monitored and evaluated weekly, we met our federal and state goals. DCS’s WIOA Title I Performance Measures Reports were reviewed in all categories. The MCRWB Youth Score Card

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was reviewed as a tool to measure all youth grants at the Board in the future. Feedback and suggestions were welcomed.

YouthWorks (YW)

- Five separate contracts providing services to separate populations
- Partnership for Options A & B with Worcester Public Schools
- Youth hosts may be in-person or virtual
- High School teacher project funding and enrollments TBD

Program Option	Funding	Enrollee Goal
Special Program (disconnected youth)	\$34,000	10
Option A – WPS Innovation Pathways students	\$90,000	34
Option B – WPS New Citizens Center & Transitions programs	\$56,500	15
Supplemental program (WCAC and City of Worc Division of Youth Opportunities)	\$207,407	62
HS Teacher Project	TBD	TBD
TOTAL	\$377,907	121

Connecting Activities – Support programming at the Worcester Public Schools & 11 school districts supported through Blackstone Valley Ed Foundation. March 31st – Regional Young Adult Virtual Job Fair

Next Meeting

April 8, 2021, conducted by WebEx. Information provided on page 1.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:35 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*

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