

**MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, Inc.
Youth Council Meeting, March 12, 2019
TD Bank Conference Center, Springfield MA**

Voting Members Present:

Cleveland Burton	Peter Longo	Mena Regan
Paula Euber	Bob Paterwic	Pamela Westmoreland
Haydee Lamberty-Rodriguez		
Others Present:		
Ray Abrams	Candace Griffith	Kelsey Poole
Peter Blain	Gladys Lebron-Gonzales	Abigail Ragland
Marlene Corales	Maria Montero	Celia Rodriguez
Stephanie Davalos	Zena Murray	Nia Stimage-Norwood
Kitty Doolittle	Margaret Nugent	Sergio Vicente
MH Staff Present:		
Christine Abramowitz	Peta-Gaye Ewans-Porter	Amanda Mantilla
Mike Chechette	Kathryn Kirby	

Meeting Materials

Mailed Out: Agenda, Minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting, MA Proposed FY20 Budget – Governor’s House 1
Hand-Out: Westover Job Corps Brochures

MINUTES OF MEETING

I. Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Youth Council Chair Cleveland Burton called the meeting to order at about 8:35 a.m.; introductions were made and a vote to approve the minutes from the last Youth Council meeting, which were sent out with the agenda, was requested.

- **Action Taken:** A motion to approve the minutes of the December 11th meeting was made, seconded and approved.

II. Program Updates

A. WIOA Youth FY19 and Pathways Programs

Mike Chechette reported that with just about one more quarter to go in the fiscal year, the 8 WIOA Youth program vendors are just about at 84% of their planned service goals and are achieving performance outcomes. As we are in year 1 of the 2-year RFP, the Program Design Team members are readying to make the site visits as part of our monitoring and thanked the current team members and welcomed any new members who’d like to join them. Team member Bob Paterwic echoed that welcoming.

He then segued into a brief update on career pathway work with West Springfield High School & STCC, as well with YWCA Youth Build, in manufacturing and also that Pathfinder is in a planning phase to develop a similar new pathway.

B. School to Career, STEM and YouthWorks Year-Round Planning

Kathryn Kirby noted that we are in our 3rd QTR of the School to Career Grant and are at 93% of our goal with 1445 internships with a goal of 1559. Schools to Career Directors are continuing to secure internship opportunities for in-school youth with a goal of increasing the number of STEM internships.

In addition to School to Career with have a STEM @ Work grant to increase the number of Paid STEM internships with STEM employers and MassHire along with the STC Directors have been coordinating these efforts. Currently we have a youth working in IT at Big Y; three youth were interviewed last Friday for a paid internship at Phyx device repair & sales located in the Scibelli Enterprise Center that will assist in computer repairs, marketing and sale; Western New England University will offer 2 paid students internships during the month of June and AT&T has expressed an interest in working with young people this summer through the YouthWorks Summer Program.

As for the YouthWorks Summer Jobs Program vendors have spent the last few weeks connecting with employers interested in becoming a worksite and that this year Hampden County received \$1.4 million dollars which is an increase from last year budget of 1.2 million dollars. The YouthWorks Summer Jobs Program is a summer employment program for youth between the ages of 14-21 who reside in the cities of Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield and Westfield. This year, the Commonwealth Corporation also offered three separate pots of money for a competitively funded Pilot Program. We, along with MassHireHolyoke, decided to apply for the funds to provide service learning experiences for 30 14-15 year olds for youth from Puerto Rica affected by the hurricanes and that they will receive a stipend during the training if we are funded. This year the Commonwealth Corporation would like to see an increase in the # of private sector businesses.

On Friday, April 5th MassHire HCWB will hold our annual summer jobs press conference in Westfield this year. The event will take place from 1pm-2pm at the REED Learning Institute, located at 152 Notre Dame Street in Westfield. We're asking YouthWorks and WIOA vendors to attend and please bring youth and invite employers. So far, we have RSVPs from the mayors, legislatures, and employers.

She then noted that she and Christine have been meeting with the superintendent of Westfield Public Schools along with the Principal of Westfield High School and Staff to continue planning for a YouthYear Planning Grant for a healthcare pathway program to take place next year. Youth will be paid from the YouthWorks Year-Round grant. The purpose of the grant is to offer a healthcare pathway program that includes jobs shadowing, tours, and a work experience in a healthcare setting or a setting that would support a healthcare background such as a first responders. In addition to the classroom work, the students will receive healthcare related credentials.

She lastly noted that a Work Readiness Train the Trainer Workshop will be held on Monday, April 29th, 2019 facilitated by Jenniefer Murphy, Director of Workforce Development for the YWCA.

C. Healthcare Partnership of Western MA

Peta-Gaye Porter updated the council on planned Middle School Career Exploration tours that will occur between March 26th-29th and that 8 such schools are participating in the tours.

III. Governor's Proposed FY20 Budget

Christine Abramowitz ran through a review of the Governor's proposed House 1 budget; which looks to be very promising for many youth-related funding items should the House and Senate support the amounts as it winds through the budget process. More to come!

IV. Westover Job Corps Presentation

Marlene Corales and Ray Abrams began their presentation by providing a brochure hand-out of the Westover Job Corps program offerings and services. They then showed a video presentation put together by their national office entitled "Great Expectations" which is what is shown to all Job Corps applicants and focuses on their "zero tolerance" policies that are intended to mimic what is expected in a workplace setting related to no drugs, alcohol, physical or sexual abuse, etc. The goal is to work with youth to get them past these barriers to be put on a successful career pathway. They also described how they work with school in a co-enrollment arrangement whereby non-residential students earn credit recovery in school classrooms in the morning and then come to the Job Corps for occupational/trade training in the afternoons; with transportation provided both ways. They noted that about 33-34% of participants are non-MA residents so they work the network of other Job Corp centers in the northeast/Region 1 DOL catchment area to facilitate the best enrollment choice for the young person. They also described the many wrap-around support services and incentives that provide to their participants and encouraged programs to talk to them about how to develop other collaborations. The council members thanked them for their presentation.

V. Announcements and Next Meetings

- STCC announced their plan for an April 3, 2019 Career Majors Fair with free bus passes available to those who need transportation as well as their plans to pilot a program to accept enrollments without the AccuPlacer requirement for high school graduates with Math, English at a 2.7 GPA or higher; but does not apply to HiSet/GED recipients (more info to be sent out via email by Christine).
- MassHire Holyoke announced a Youth Career Fair on April 10th at the War Memorial (more info to be sent out via email by Christine).
- Gateway to College announced that programs at STCC and HCC are in open enrollment right now through the end of June – Weekly Info sessions are held at HCC on Thursdays @ 3:30pm and at STCC on Wednesdays @ 3:30 pm.
- It was lastly noted that the next full Youth Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at about 9:50 a.m.