

MHHCWB BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
March 9, 2021 ~ 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

C. Brown	J. Cook	S. Hatiras	C. Royal
C. Burton	E. Cummings	J. Messmer	P. Samra
D. Butterfield	E. Demetrian	J. Mitchell	J. Sullivan
P. Canavan	K. Dunkelberg	E. O'Keefe	H. Thomas
E. Cassidy	G. Golash-Kos	J. Peters	M. Wise
REB Staff:		Others Present:	
D. Cruise	J. Lyons	R. Berrena	J. Miller
C. Abramowitz	L. Martin	I. Cruz	K. Rogowski
D. Carr	M. Scibelli	D. Gadaire	
M. Chechette	S. Trueman	K. Kremenic	
E. Johnson		K. Lynn	

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Materials

Mailed Out: March 9, 2021 Agenda, Minutes of the December 15, 2020 Meeting, Executive Committee Report and FY21 Budget Modification

Screen Shared: One-Stop Career Center Operator/Service Provider Procurement Results

I. Welcome & Business Items

a) Approval of the Minutes

Chair Meredith Wise, called the meeting to order and welcomed members. A roll call was then taken for attendance and Meredith began the meeting by asking for a motion to accept the December 15, 2020 meeting minutes. (Please see Attachment A, MHHCWB Board of Directors' Meeting Votes which is considered an addendum to these minutes.)

- **Action Taken:** A motion to accept the minutes from the December 15, 2020 meeting was seconded and approved via roll call vote.

b) Executive Committee Report

Meredith went on to the Executive Committee Report who met on February 19, 2020. In the interest of time, noting other items were to be discussed in more detail later in the meeting, she briefly highlighted a few agenda items as follows:

- A Finance Committee report on the 2nd QTR Financials was given for which income and expenses were noted to be mostly on track and as expected at this point. **The summary is posted on the "member-only" webpage.** A budget modification was also approved and she noted it was in the Board packet.
- A Governance Committee report was provided which included continuing the process to select a new Vice-Chair; the review and approval of the committee charter with no amendments; and a review of the committee's CY21 work plan.

- The Strategic Planning Committee meeting report included a review of the 2nd QTR Strategic Plan Scoreboard and on a discussion related to developing innovative approaches and finding new ways to create workable solutions to the challenges facing the workforce as a result of COVID; highlighting occupations in the hardest hit areas of “beauty, bar and restaurant” which are mostly females and lower paid individuals.
- The discussed youth development programs which the Board will continue discussing today in relation to summer programming.

II. One-Stop Career Center Operator/Service Provider Procurement Process

Meredith first advised the Board that the One Stop Career Center Committee (OCCCC) completed the Career Center Certification process outlined in the One-Stop Career Center Certification Policy and in accordance with Mass Workforce Issuance 100 DCS 17.103.2. She then turned the meeting over to Christine Abramowitz who presented an in-depth Power Point presentation on the OSCCC Operator Service Provider procurement process (which is an addendum to the minutes). She reviewed the following:

- Purpose of the RFP
- Review Process Timeline
- Review Team Make-Up Considerations
- Review Team Members
- Proposal Review Criteria
- Review Team Meeting Process and Discussion Points

Which led to the following Action Items:

- **Action Taken:** A motion to approve MassHire Springfield as Operator/ Service Provider of the One-Stop Career Center in Springfield for the 4-year Charter period, subject to an annual review, re-chartering and re-contracting renewal process *was seconded and approved, with abstentions as noted in Attachment A.*
- **Action Taken:** A motion to approve MassHire Holyoke’s as Operator/Service Provider of the One-Stop Career Center in Holyoke for the 4-year Charter period, subject to an annual review, re-chartering and re-contracting renewal process *was seconded and approved, with abstentions as noted in Attachment A.*

III. President & CEO Report

Meredith turned the meeting over to David Cruise, who first welcomed new Board member Ed O’Keefe from Local 63. He also thanked and congratulated Kevin Lynn and David Gadaire and their team for their hard work on the re-chartering of the Career Centers. David went on to the Governor’s FY’22 budget highlighting an increase from \$6.9M across two line items to over \$15M.a new initiative called the “Career Technical Initiative” that has been to be initially piloted in vocational technical schools to address skills gaps in various trades and other key occupations to train adult learners in evening hours (5-9pm) as well as non-vocational high schools students in late afternoon hours (2-5pm). He also spoke on the following:

- He noted and thanked Steve Trueman and his team on their hard work on the US DOL COVID-19 National Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Grant, advising that MHHCWB was asked to be the statewide operator for this \$7M initiative.
- The MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board has been awarded a \$500k grant through the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development in partnership with the Federal Cares Act to develop and implement a Virtual Manufacturing training program. The Virtual Manufacturing training is for individuals that have lost their employment or are now under-employed due to COVID. The program will be implemented across Western MA in the Berkshire, Franklin/Hampshire and Hampden Counties. The training is targeted towards individuals, especially women, who were employed in highly impacted industries such as food and accommodations, retail and tourism. He thanked Larry Martin for his work designing, coordinating and organizing the work for this grant.
- David, noted that MassHire Hampden and MassHire Franklin Hampshire County Workforce Boards applied for a \$375k multi-year Healthcare Workforce Hub Grant to increase the capacity of medical assisting and medical interpreting programs at the three local community colleges. Funding would cover tuition and fees for 45 students enrolled in these two programs should we be awarded the grant.
- Lastly, David reported on a new 3-year grant from the US Department of Defense called 'MassBridge' which is program that will work with existing vocational programs, high schools, community colleges, and supporting universities, to connect and engage students to encourage them toward careers in manufacturing technologies.

IV. MHHCWB Summer 2021 Youth Employment Program: Engaging Our Future Workforce

Meredith first spoke on the challenges for our youth to gain summer employment which opened up a robust discussion with members. Youth Council Chair Cleveland Burton commented on his view that he slowly sees a return back to in-person school as well as in-person summer jobs although we are not quite there yet. Christine noted the more than \$50k increase in state summer jobs funding to serve over 700 youth in the region and that CommCorp has once again developed virtual project-based and career pathway learning options to supplement local projects and placements. She also noted that members can assist by hiring a Youth outright to help with required private sector match to the summer slots; be a worksite which can be in-person, hybrid or virtual depending on where a company is at; support sector project-based learning; provide career exploration opportunities; participate in job shadows/informational interviewing activities and lastly to be on a panel in CommCorp planned "Career Chats". Members spoke of activities they were aware were occurring and/or had agreed to participate in (Universal Plastics and The Urban League). Meredith thanked everyone for their contribution to the discussion and Christine can share collateral as it becomes available.

With no further business, Meredith called the meeting to a close at about 4:35p.m.

Submitted by David Cruise

MHHCWB Board of Directors Meeting Votes

Meeting Date: 03/09/21 3pm

	<u>Roll-Call Attendance</u>	<u>Dec. 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes</u>	<u>OSCC Procurement (MHS)</u>	<u>OSCC Procurement (MHH)</u>
Paul Bailey				
Tania Barber				
Craig Brown	X	X	X	X
Cleveland Burton	X	X	X	X
Daniel Butterfield	X	X	X	X
Patricia Canavan	X	X	Abstain	Abstain
Eugene Cassidy	X	X	X	X
John Cook	X	X	Abstain	Abstain
Ellen Cummings	X	X	X	X
Alesia Days				
Ed Demetron	X	X	X	X
Keshawn E. Dodds				
Kermit Dunkelberg	X	X	Abstain	Abstain
Michael Galat				
Gina Golash-Kos	X	X	X	X
Fiore Grassetti				
Spiros Hatiras	X	X	X	Left mtg.
Susan Kasa				
Nadim Kashouh				
Pia Kumar				
Ken Messina				
Jorge Messmer	X	X	Abstain	Abstain
John Mitchell	X	X	X	X
Ed O'Keefe	X	X	X	X
Joseph Peters	X	X	Abstain	Abstain
Timothy J. Plante				
Nancy Rivera				
Christina Royal	X	X	Abstain	Abstain
Patty Samra	X	X	X	X
Roxanne Smith-Miller				
Paul Stelzer				
J. Jeffrey Sullivan	X	X	X	X
Henry Thomas	X	X	X	X
Jacob Waah				
Meredith Wise	X	X	X	X

Quorum: 18/20 Attending

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