

MHHCWB BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ANNUAL MEETING
December 12, 2023 ~ 3:00PM - 4:30PM
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

C. Brown	E. Demetrian	M. Wise
K. Dodds	K. Dodds	J. Sullivan
K. Dunkelberg	M. Galat	P. Samra
E. Cassidy	F. Grasseti	G. Timmons
J. Cook	S. Hatiras	P. Bailey
E. Cummings	S. Kasa	

Others Present:

MassHire Staff	Sec. Lauren E. Jones	
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MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Materials

Mailed Out: Agenda, Minutes of the September 12, 2023 Meeting, Executive Committee Report (including 2023 Board Self-Assessment Survey Comments), Directors & Officers List

Screen Shared: Above

I. Welcome & Business Items

A. Approval of the Minutes

Chair Patricia Samra called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members. Patricia welcomed new Board member Dr. George Timmons, President, Holyoke Community College. Patricia began the meeting by asking for a motion to accept the September 12, 2023 meeting Minutes.

- **Action Taken:** A motion to accept the minutes from the September 12, 2023 meeting was seconded and approved.

II. Executive Committee Report

Dave Cruise reported on the Executive Committee who met on November 8, 2023.

- Rudy D'Agostino, CPA of Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C., had reported on the results of the FY 2023 Audit; which once again resulted in 3 clean, unmodified opinions of the financial statements, of MHHCWB's internal controls and for each major program; with no deficiencies or compliance issues to note; no adjusting journal entries required of the

financial statements, and no findings or questioned costs. Diana Carr and the Finance/Audit Committee were congratulated for their work.

- The Strategic Planning Committee report included their review of the progress in the 1st QTR of the FY 2024-2026 Strategic Plan KPIs and on focused discussion on the critical employer role in workforce education.

III. Election of Directors & Officers

Chair Samra turned the meeting over to Governance Committee Chair, Craig Brown, who recommended the following actions be approved:

A. Director Re-Election Attendance Review

Paul Bailey	Executive Director	Springfield Partners for Community Action, Inc.
Craig Brown	Attorney at Law	Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury, Murphy PC
Ellen Cummings	Regional Director	Verizon, Regional
Gina Golash-Kos	Executive Director	Sunshine Village
Susan Kasa	President	Boulevard Machine Inc.
Ken Messina	Manager, Rapid Response - MDCS	MA DCS
J. Jeffrey Sullivan	President	New Valley Bank & Trust
Meredith Wise	Consultant	Employers Association of the Northeast

- **Action Taken:** A motion to re-elect the above members at the Board December Annual meeting, for terms ending December 2026, was made, seconded and approved.

B. Election of Officers:

The following MHCWB, Inc. Board Officers and MHCWB Executive Management Team were approved and recommend by both the Executive Committee and the Governance Committee and require a vote by the Board:

- Chair: Patricia Samra (2nd year of 3-year term)
- Vice-Chair: TBD
- Treasurer: Eugene Cassidy (1-year term)
- Clerk: Craig Brown (1-year term)
- President and Chief Executive Officer (non-voting): David M. Cruise
- Vice-President and Comptroller (non-voting): Diana M. Carr
- Vice-President of Workforce Operations (non-voting): Steven Trueman

- **Action Taken:** A motion to elect the slate of Offices as noted above was made, seconded, and approved.

C. Appointment of New MHHCWB Board Member

Action Taken: A Motion to Elect Dr. George Timmons, President of Holyoke Community College, as a Director of MHHCWB, Inc. for a three year term ending December 2026 was made, seconded, and approved.

IV. President & CEO Report

David reviewed the **2023 Board Self-Evaluation Results** and the **2023 Board Summary of Comments and Recommendations**. He discussed in some detail each category of comments and mainly focused on the following issues:

1. Private sector membership on the Board and Board diversity
2. Strategic guidance during upcoming MHHCWB leadership transition
3. Continued Board discussion on enhancing employer engagement in strategic planning
4. Continued guidance on increasing MH Career Center transactional activity with employers and job seekers
5. Promoting MHHCWB accomplishments to the business community

V. Board Presentation and Discussion: Lauren E. Jones, Secretary, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

Patricia introduced Lauren E. Jones, Secretary, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. A summary of Sec. Jones comments are as follows:

- A. The importance of regional cooperation, collaboration, and partnership to inform workforce strategic planning that will result in sustainable job creation, and economic expansion and fuel industry innovation and competitiveness.
- B. An intentional EOLWD and State commitment to “raising up people” to ensure they have unfettered access to training programs and services that present opportunities to secure and retain career directed employment positions in priority industries and occupations with family sustaining wages.
- C. EOLWD developing the 4-Year WIOA 2024 State Workforce Development Plan that will guide workforce initiatives in the state through CY 2027. Plan development in process for a March 2024 submission to the U.S. Department of Labor. Ensuring that programs and supports are focused on serving priority populations, and mitigating employment barriers such as high quality and affordable child care, and adequate and reliable transportation are identified as Plan priorities is critical to ensuring their full participation in the Massachusetts economy going forward.
- D. The importance of providing internships and real time work-based learning opportunities for high school and college students to expose them to the world of work and allow them to hone their technical competencies and employability skills,
- E. The positive early- stage increases in the fall 2023 enrollment at the regional community colleges is a signal that the new **MassReconnect** program is getting early traction and

providing education access for students who otherwise would not have able to pursue post-secondary education.

F. The importance of the current WIOA Regional Planning and Blueprint development process that EOLWD is guiding and directing across the Commonwealth.

G. The importance of the State Migrant Shelter initiatives that are currently in-play and the potential this cohort brings to mitigating known Supply Gaps in critical occupations across the Commonwealth.

The Board thanked Secretary Jones for her time and information.

The Board went into closed session to hear an update from Chair Samra on the ***MHHCWB President & CEO Search Process***.

With no further business, Patricia adjourned the meeting at 4:30PM.

Submitted by David M. Cruise