

## MassHire Metro South/West Workforce WIOA Board Meeting

Minutes for April 25, 2023,

### **Members present:**

**Members on Teams:** Lisa Kubiak, Chair, Rosemary Alexander, John Bogdan, Bob Bower, Brandy DeBarge, Mark Fegley, Charles Gagnon, Bob Ganong, Walter Gardner, Jennifer Jackson, Ernie Houle, Rev. Lloyd, Sue Medeiros, Tom O'Rourke, Jason Palitsch, Nick Pavone, David Podell, Dan Rediger, Chris Vericker

**Members absent:** Patrick Davis, Kim Ingalls, Marc Koczwara, Shannon Laingen, Kevin O'Connor, Mary Lou Regan

**Other:** MassHire Metro South/West Workforce Board staff: Henry, Bryson, Greg Bunn, Meghan Burke, Cindy Cedrone, Zoie Jaklitsch, Tricia Lucier, Louise Meyer, Carol Wolf

### **Review of Agenda, Welcome, Approval of January 24, 2023 Minutes**

Greg Bunn welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to the chair, Lisa Kubiak. Lisa asked for a motion to approve the January 24, 2023 minutes. Bob Bower made a motion, Chris Vericker seconded. Motion passed.

### **State of the Board-**

Greg noted the Strategic Plan had been shared with WIOA Partners and thanked Sue Medeiros, Kevin O'Connor, Mary Lou Regan, Jason Palitsch and David Podell for being on the committee, along with Henry Bryson and Louise Meyer, working with Ann Budner. He encouraged other board members to become involved with one of the other standing committees. He noted that the office spaces in Marlborough, Framingham and Norwood were settling in and the newest youth space in Framingham was hoping to be completed for move-in by June 1. He also said that Waltham Public Library hosts space 5 days a week which completes representation in the four key areas of the region: Framingham, Norwood, Marlborough and Waltham. Mark Fegley asked if specific usage was being tracked. Greg said that MOSES had the capability to do that. Greg stated that a radio Ad Campaign, with at least two radio stations, is being put into place to increase visibility, promote jobs and training.

### **Youth-**

Greg was pleased to announce that two successful youth events took place in April. The first was the "Trade and Construction Expo" on April 6 in Marlborough, with 300 Junior and Senior students and 17 vendors from a grant from the Foundation for MetroWest. Among the vendors was Brandy DeBarge, Patriot Ambulance, and many vendors offered hands-on experiences. Meghan Burke noted that some of the students were directly involved in the planning: an intern put together collateral, which was labeled "Blueprint"; a competition for a logo, where two students' logos were chosen; and two students created a video of the day, which Greg shared with the board. She said the raffle, from vendor donations, was a huge success and the student feedback was very positive. Tricia Lucier and Bob Bower noted, the second event was the "Tools for the Trades", which was a four-day exploratory program for high school Seniors, the week of school vacation, at the Operating Engineers, the New England Laborers Training Camp, the Carpenters Union and the Plumbers and Pipefitter Union. Eighteen students took part in hands-on experiences as well. Greg said plans will be starting soon to plan for next year for April to be "Youth Trades" month. He also noted the collaboration taking place since the merger and discussions have started in re-branding the youth programs under one umbrella, to be called "Youth Connections".

## **Sector Initiatives-**

Greg gave updates on a HealthcareWorks initiative, the Behavioral Health Expansion Grant which has 10 strong employer partners. Partners are reimbursed for the time licensed clinicians spend supervising recently prepared bachelor's or master's degree staff in order to move them towards licensure. Based on this work, Commonwealth Corporation has signaled they will continue funding initiatives to increase the behavioral health workforce capacity. Kerri Sandberg is working on two additional behavioral health projects: Mental Health First Aid Training and Recovery Friendly Workplaces.

Greg gave an update on Manufacturing Works. The board is continuing to explore a role to act as a co-sponsor with employers to develop Registered Apprentice Programs. He said there has been collaboration with the Marlborough Economic Development Corporation, the Center for Advanced Manufacturing, and the Northeast Advance Manufacturing Consortium (NAMC).

## **Transfer Virtual Reality**

Greg shared that the youth staff had been trained in the Virtual Reality headsets and they were used at the Trades and Construction Expo. He noted they would be rolling them out to the schools for the students to possibly earn a certificate.

## **Administrative Tasks**

Greg noted that Henry Bryson would be starting the Career Center Monitoring which also offers constructive feedback to improve services. Greg also noted that the Annual Planning would also be starting soon followed by the FY24 Budget planning. He said that an updated Conflict of Interest form from the State would be emailed to all board members to complete.

## **Changes with the New Administration**

Greg said that the new Secretary, Lauren Jones, had visited all 16 workforce boards and she has set up quarterly meeting with the boards. Secretary Jones will be conducting a site visit in Norwood on May 23. Tom O'Rourke stated he would be available to assist.

## **Words from the Chair**

Lisa also encouraged the board members to become involved in the standing committees to enhance and strengthen the full board.

She noted that Greg was closing in on five years as Executive Director and thanked him for the work he has accomplished and the future endeavors he is planning, and also praised the collaboration of all the staff, which made a successful merger of the two organizations.

Lisa asked for a motion to adjourn. Ernie Houle made a motion; Chris Vericker seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.