

MSW Workforce Executive Committee Meeting, June 13, 2023

Minutes

Members present Lisa Kubiak, Chair, Andy Vizulis

Members on Zoom: Bob Bower, Mark Fegley, Rev. Lloyd

Guests: Maria Syrniotis, Senior Advisor, Congresswoman Lori Trahan, Jake Mastrandrea, Outreach Director, Congresswoman Lori Trahan

Others present: MassHire Metro South/West Workforce Board staff present: Henry Bryson, Greg Bunn, Cindy Cedrone, Louise Meyer

Welcome and Approval of May 2, 2023 Minutes

Lisa Kubiak welcomed everyone and asked for approval of the May 2, 2023 minutes. Andy Vizulis made a motion to approve. Mark Fegley seconded. All members indicated approval. Motion passed. Lisa turned the meeting over to Greg Bunn. Greg welcomed Maria Syrniotis, Senior Advisor and Jake Mastrandrea, Outreach Director for Congresswoman Lori Trahan. Introductions were made.

Discussion

Maria asked what the Board does for services, how they are promoted and who else is competing for funding sources. Greg explained that the board has oversight of the career center and selection of the career center operator. He said the Business Services Unit works with employers on their hiring and training needs. He said WIOA training dollars have been difficult to expend since COVID because of fewer interested program participants and fewer training vendors. He said because of the lack of capacity to manage additional grants outside of WIOA, there aren't many responses to RFPs for ARPA training dollars from Workforce Boards. He said it was difficult, and time consuming, for vendors to become approved for the State's WIOA Eligible Training Provider List. Lisa gave an example of her frustration when looking for funding to train CNAs, that it would take too long so her organization, services for the aging population, paid on its own. Greg and Lisa both asked for more flexibility and a more streamlined process. The board members offered suggestions for more technical assistance and an updated state data system and noted how collaborative this board has become.

Maria said economic development means "connecting the dots". She noted that the Congresswoman is on the Regional Leadership Council which brings bills to the White House and workforce development was on the list. She agreed that it is important to keep companies in the state and offer training to those workers who need it, and that Jake Mastandrea would work closely with the board. Greg will send "A Workforce Development Vision" that the MWA produced for the Healey-Driscoll Administration.

Career Center Monitoring

Henry Bryson reported that the career center compliance and performance monitoring went extremely well with very few errors in the customer folders and MOSES database. He noted that Zoie Jaklitsch, the Career Center Director, has formed a solid team. He will send the final report to the members when it is complete.

Corporate Logo

Greg presented the new Metro South/West corporate logo. Bob made a motion to approve; Andy seconded. Motion passed to accept the new logo.

Lisa asked for a motion to adjourn. Andy made a motion. Bob seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.