



## MassHire MSW WB Youth Committee Minutes

Thursday, December 2, 2021  
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Meeting Location:**  
Zoom Meeting

### Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Welcome and Approval of 9/24/20 & 5/20/21 Minutes
3. Youth Programs Update
4. Youth Programs Rebranding
5. Youth Program Staffing
6. Additional Comments/Concerns
7. Adjourn

Members Attending: Jennifer Jackson, Nancy Houle, Yemi Ajao, Kevin Lopez, Meghan Murtagh, Nick Pavone

Members Absent: Rob McCune, Brandy Debarge

Staff Attending: Greg Bunn and Meghan Burke

Youth Vendor Attending: Tricia Lucier

### Welcome and Approval of 9/24/20 & 5/20/21, Minutes

- Jennifer Jackson called the meeting to order
- Quorum
- September 24, 2020, Nancy Houle Moved, Yemi Ajao Seconded, Minutes Approved
- May 20, 2021, Nancy Houle Moved, Yemi Ajao Seconded, Minutes Approved

### Youth Programs Update

#### WIOA Youth- Career Connections Overview

- ✓ Federally Funded Program
- ✓ Program is provided for youth ages, 17–24 (out of school)
- ✓ 2–3-year program enrollment
- ✓ Intensive 1\*1 case management is provided
- ✓ HiSet and GED instruction – individualized coaching
- ✓ Participants have Individual Training Accounts (ITA)
- ✓ Funding was increased by 70% in FY22
- ✓ Tools of the trade introduction – Mini Trades exploratory program over April vacation

Board Youth Program Update- Connecting Activities/YouthWorks/HSSEIP

- ✓ HSSIIEP was funded again for a total of \$950,000 – will be placing 150 youth in internships within their own school districts
- ✓ Provided basic overview of Connecting Activities and YouthWorks

**Youth Programs Rebranding**

- MassHire MSW board staff held a focus group with students at Framingham HS to discuss rebranding the youth programs:
  - ✓ Burned out of Zoom
  - ✓ Comfortable with the word Youth
  - ✓ Would like Career Exploration Fairs
  - ✓ More hands-on experiences
- Possible name change idea - Career Connect – Get plugged in
- Will be able to fundraise more efficiently with a new more inclusive name
- Work with IDEAS on rebranding
- Plan more focus groups with a broader age group

**Youth Program Staffing:**

- Current Openings:
  - ✓ Board: YouthWorks Program Manager & YouthWorks Contract position
  - ✓ Career Connections: Case Manager & Job Developer
- Looking for creative solutions to staffing shortage

**Additional Comments/Concerns:**

- **Nancy Houle- Minuteman Technical Institute applied for a grant to train Facility Managers**
- **Introduce Yemi Ajao to MassHire MSW Career Center Director Zoie Jaklitsch**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.