

**Youth Workforce Investment Council Agenda
Central MA Workforce Investment Board
February 11, 2016**

Members Present: Ron Scott, Isidore Nosike, Kevin Crowley, Judy Freedman Fask, Roy Lucas, Kristin Mayotte, Charla Hixson, David Tirendi (proxy for Colleen Lanza)

Members in Process/Guests: Jennifer Bento-Penyoun

Staff Present: Ed Gagne, Jeff Turgeon, Kwesi Foster

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** The meeting was called to order 2:39PM and all attendees were asked to introduce themselves.
2. **Note of Potential Conflicts of Interest & Confirmation of Quorum:** It was announced that a quorum was present and no conflicts were noted at this time.
3. **Vote:**
 - a. **Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2015:** The December 10, 2015 meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion by Frank Kartheiser and a second by Kevin Crowley.
4. **Presentation: Jennifer Bento–Penyoun, Massachusetts Educational Financial Authority:** Please see handouts section for presentation.
5. **Presentation: James King, Worcester County District Attorney’s Office:** James King was unable to attend. J. King planned to discuss internships within the judicial system for students interested in a career pathway in law enforcement careers. We plan to schedule him at a future meeting. On 2/12/16, J. King provided the following link for further information about internships: <http://worcesterda.com/careers/internships/> You may also contact him at james.king@state.ma.us
6. **Discussion:**
 - a. **WIOA Youth RFP:** The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be posted on the CMWIB website on February 17, 2016. The Bidders Conference is February 19, 2016.
 - b. **Basic Skills Policy:** E. Gagne reviewed a “draft” policy for comment. A vote will occur at the next meeting. WIOA allows boards to create their own measurement tools for category “b” of the basic skill definition. E. Gagne provided a measurement tools for category “b” to include a Career Ready/Work Keys 101 assessment. Discussion occurred regarding its relevance to the TABE. K. Crowley mentioned we need a collective employer buy in for the Work Keys assessment. See Handout.
7. **Updates:**
 - a. **WIOA Youth Update:** E. Gagne – We plan to enroll the majority of youth by the 3rd quarter of 2016. Worcester is one of the highest performance regions in Commonwealth in outcome categories, and we want to maintain that status in all

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outcome categories considering the challenging expectations under WIOA. New performance categories will be evaluated periodically. Ongoing discussions with program staff occurs to ensure new outcome categories are met. Follow-up occurs for 12 months (post term) to ensure outcome retention.

- b. **YouthWorks (YW):** J. Turgeon mentioned YouthWorks began planning for the summer. WCAC will serve as the program coordinator and youth employer of record. 10% of the program will be offered in Southbridge and Webster. The Commonwealth Corporation requested that 80% of all enrollees be new participants. Activities covered during training include career exploration and career interests. The next YW planning meeting is Thursday, March 24th at 9am at City Hall (Levi Lincoln Room).
 - c. **Job1 Group:** We are working with the City Manager's office to tie YW and other City initiatives to Job1 efforts.
 - d. **Connecting Activities:** The WIB added Northbridge High School as a new partner to Connecting Activities. Abby Kelley will meet w/the CMWIB to determine if the school is a good fit for the Next Level Career Ready High School Review. This service is provided by the CMWIB to help schools assess their career ready services/resources and provides a custom work plan for improvement. Schools are under no obligation to apply the recommendations provided by the review team.
 - e. **Building Pathways:** J. Turgeon. See attached flyer with info session dates and an FAQ about the program. No start date has been firmly established.
8. **Announcements:** 1) We are hosting Professional Development Workshops on homeless, LBGT, Veterans and disability. Two workshop flyers provided in meeting packets. Other workshop dates and times, TBA. 2) Youth employment rally at the statehouse on Feb. 18th. It's an opportunity for youth to get involved in the democratic process. Folks can contact Frank Kartheiser for more information.
9. **Next Meeting:**
- a. **April 14th – CMWIB, 340 Main Street, 4th Floor, Worcester, MA 01608.**
10. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM on a motion by Isidore Nosike and a second.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Kwesi Foster*

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