

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board

Youth Council

February 10, 2022

2:30 pm

Conducted by WebEx:

<https://cow.webex.com/cow/j.php?MTID=m693215317c954b866cb5a0a9c18c8fe0>

Meeting number (access code): 172 319 7694; Meeting password: kiBvyPs78a3

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

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Members Present: Kathe Coll, Robin Hooper, David Trendy, Kristen Mayotte, Robert McGlory, Howard Lucas, Isidore Nosike, Kelly Penrod,

Guest Present: Peggy Bernard, Alexandra Ulrich

Staff Present: Ed Gagne, Mildred Currie

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m.

Approval of the December 9, 2021 Minutes: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Kelly Penrod.

Presentation

Essentialed.com – Peggy Bernard, Regional Manager, discussed Essential Skills Series to help students fulfill the growing need for skills-based learning. Lessons include a simple strategy to help students apply and expand their knowledge using real-world problems using higher Depth of Knowledge exercises, as well as practicing with questions that integrate with GED, TASC Prep, and HiSET Academies. The Essential Skills Series is built on the College and Career Readiness Standards. Other services offered are college, work, computer and money essentials resources. Additional information see: [Education to Change Your Life | Affordable, Accessible, Amazing! \(passged.com\)](#). Contact: Peggy Bernard at peggy@essentialed.com.

Presentation

Easter Seals – Alexandra Ulrich, College Navigator Manager, discussed how the program assists students to advocate for their needs, identify barriers, and access college services and resources to successfully reach graduation. This program provides individualized services to college students with disabilities based on their goals, strengths, and needs to help them build lifelong skills. Services can be delivered in person, virtually, or through a hybrid model to best meet the student's needs. Services include: providing information to students and families about what to expect as college students, connecting students with on and off-campus resources, developing communication and self-advocacy skills, helping students develop time-management and organizational skills, assisting students with accessing online

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability, The MCRWB will provide auxiliary aids and service, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon advance request. Please contact MCRWB at 508-799-1590 or the ADA Coordinator at disabilities@worcesterma.gov.

databases (Blackboard, Moodle etc.), supporting students with advocating for appropriate accommodations, and practicing social skills & discovering new opportunities for socialization. For additional information contact: aullrich@eastersealsma.org, (617)-226-2854 | navigator.eastersealsma.org.

Program Updates (E. Gagne)

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

WIOA Youth RFP is now available at [Bid Details | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](#)

The WIOA programs exceeded all performance standards, again. This is an incredible accomplishment considering the fact that we are now two years post pandemic and our statistics in some categories are now reflected one year later. Worcester continues to consistently meet, if not exceeded, all categories each quarter. For the period ending December 31, 2021:

	Rate	%Goal
Q2 Employment/Education:	74.0%	91.4%
Q4 Employment/Education:	70.3%	95.0%
Q2 Median Earnings:	\$2,754	76.5%
Credential Attainment:	59.5%	84.3%
Measurable Skill Gain:	52.1%	104.1%

YouthWorks Year Round

Provide services to youth 14-24 in subsidized work for 125 hours this spring. Expanding from 58 to 110 youth. Eligibility upper age limit is now 24. Students employed by WCAC and placed with area worksites.

YouthWorks (YW) Summer

WCAC, Center of Hope, and the town of Milford will offer services. YW is currently accepting online applications from area worksites - deadline Feb. 28th. Agencies are not accepting youth participant applications at this time.

Connecting Activities

Serves Worcester and 12 area school districts. The districts outside Worcester are supported through our partnership with the Blackstone Valley Ed Foundation. A new project this spring funded by (DESE) supports 14 HS seniors paid \$14.25 for up to 120 hours (potential to serve more than 200). Student participate in a paid internships related to education field with the hopes to increase a diverse number of youth. Unique partnership with MassHire Boston - employer of record/student payroll.

Council Announcements

The Board currently has four training programs accepting enrollments: Tech Boost and Coding, Clinical Med Assistant, Environment Remediation Worker, and Re-entry CDL. See recent email distribution for further information.

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Next Meeting

April 14, 2022, conducted by WebEx. Information provided on page 1.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*