

**MassHire Central Region Workforce Board**

**Youth Council**

**October 14, 2021**

**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)**

**+1-415-655-0001,,1723197694## US Toll**

**Members Present:** Amy Cartwell, Kathe Coll, Roberto Diaz, Judy Freedman, Robin Hooper, Amber Polisher (Proxy for David Trendy), Howard Lucas, Kristen Mayotte, Isidore Nosike, Kelly Penrod, Kate Pesa.

**Guest Present:** Amy Mosher Berry

**Staff Present:** Jeff Turgeon, Ed Gagne

**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

**Approval of the April 8, 2021 Minutes:** The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Isidore Nosike and a second by Judy Freedman.

**Presentation**

**Vision Internships** - Amy Mosher Berry, CEO, is currently working with the Executive Director, Jeff Turgeon, and the Commonwealth Corporation on a new initiative that includes YWIC participation. The survey and Focus Group results were forwarded to YWIC members. Due to limited attendance at the Focus Group that resulted in four major findings, Amy was asked to return and engage the Council to ensure a larger pool of community organizations participated in the process to ensure the report is comprehensive and captures missing items, including best practices, currently in place. The final report will result in the YWIC choosing which items best fit the Council's needs and become part of a local strategic plan. A quick overview of the results occurred with the following questions posed:

1. What are the top 2 goals of your particular program?
2. What distinguishes your program from other youth-serving programs?
3. How has/have your program(s) been affected by COVID? Please be as specific as possible.
4. What is working well regarding your program?
5. What is not working well regarding your program?
6. If you had a MAGIC WAND, what would be your #1 recommendation to the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board?

*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](mailto:disabilities@worcesterma.gov).*

**Program Updates (E. Gagne)**

**Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** – Programs continue to provide GED, HiSET, CNA, Phlebotomy and EKG services to students in Worcester County. This year, the Fieldstone School is offering three stackable credentials in healthcare.

WIOA performance outcomes, certificates, and MSG’s were highlighted. Central MA continues to exceed all performance categories:

	<u>Rate</u>	<u>% Goal</u>
Q2 Employment/Education:	88.0%	108.6%
Q4 Employment/Education:	67.9%	91.8%
Q2 Median Earnings:	\$2765	79.0%
Credential Attainment:	61.5%	87.3%
Measurable Skill Gain:	41.8%	84.0%

This was a challenging year due to COVID, but our performance continues to be exemplary considering the many challenges, and we anticipate continued success in all categories.

**YouthWorks (YW)**

YW summer funding increased (\$1.3M), provided 350+ youth in summer 2021. WCAC, Center of Hope, and the Milford Youth Center provided services. We also partnered with the City of Worcester, the United Way, the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, and WCAC to support youth working in the newly established Worcester Green Corps – that assisted with neighborhood clean-up. We also aligned again this summer with the Worcester Youth Leadership Institute (WYLI) which provided the opportunity for selected youth to meet weekly with local civic and business leaders to learn more about how our community operates. WYLI is sponsored through the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the United Way of Central MA, the Worcester Educational Collaborative, WCAC, MassHire Central Region Workforce Board, and MassHire Career Centers.

YW year round will serve 58 income eligible youth ages 14-21. Work readiness counseling and 125 hours of subsidized work will occur. Any area employer can host youth workers. The program will begin in the fall and run through the spring.

**Connecting Activities**

The MCRWB has partnered with the Visions Intern Program to lead a regional youth strategic alignment project. Additionally, the MCRWB is assisting Bartlett High School (Webster public Schools) with the creation of Innovation Pathways career technical education programs in Manufacturing and Healthcare, and we are working with with Milord High School and Southbridge High School regarding ways to increase their student career readiness and vocational training opportunities.

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**Council Announcements**

No Council announcements.

**Next Meeting**

December 9, 2021, conducted by WebEx. Information provided on page 1.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned upon a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously at 3:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Ed Gagne*