

## **Metro South/West Career Center Committee Minutes July 16, 2025**

**Members on Zoom Conferencing:** Bob Bower, Chair, Rosemary Alexander, John Bogdan, Chris Brennan, Louise Lynch,

**Members absent:** Patrick Davis, Shannon Laingen, Sue Medeiros

**Others present,** Metro South/West Workforce Board staff: Henry Bryson, Greg Bunn, Louise Meyer, MassHire Metro South/West Career Center staff: Zoie Jaklitsch, Nilaja Pettiford, Rute Vales; Consultant: Cindy Cedrone

### **Welcome and Approval of May 21, 2025 Minutes**

Greg Bunn welcomed the members and turned the meeting over to Bob Bower. Bob asked for a motion to approve the May 21, 2025, minutes. Chris Brennan made a motion. Rosemary Alexander seconded. Motion passed.

### **Career Center Monitoring Results and Finding**

Henry Bryson presented the results of the annual career center monitoring, noting significant improvements over the years, especially since the merger. The career center has shown continuous compliance with monitoring requirements, with data integrity and folder maintenance. Henry highlighted that group interviews with various teams revealed improved collaboration, particularly between the business services team and youth programs. The career planning seminar was identified as an area for further improvement, with plans to make it more engaging and promoting different career opportunities. Zoie Jaklitsch, Rute Vales, Nilaja Pettiford, Gari Kostadinova and Janice McQuaid's efforts to improve accuracy were highlighted. Henry reported that DCS has continued to monitor WIOA Youth with no findings. Henry noted that there is a succession planning process being created to include other staff. Also, Greg noted that, although not required, plans are being put into place to expand the monitoring process to include HealthcareWorks, Connecting Activities and YouthWorks to further strengthen oversight. Greg discussed challenges with data collection and performance measures, particularly for low-income adults. Zoie and Nilaja's efforts to improve data accuracy were highlighted. There are plans to integrate quarterly reviews with Blue Hills Regional Technical High School, the new career center operator.

### **Federal Workforce Updates: Wagner-Peyser; Work Authorization Requirements**

Greg discussed the status of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) authorization, noting that while a large infrastructure bill passed, it did not impact WIOA directly. He noted that it does not appear to be a political appetite for folding multiple workforce development programs into a block grant for states. Greg also mentioned new work requirements for Medicaid and TANF recipients classified as ABAWDs (Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents), which could potentially increase customer volume at the career centers. Louise Lynch provided context on existing work requirements for those receiving benefits and discussed how DTA currently monitors compliance. Greg explained that while Wagner-Peyser services are already funded through Title III and Wagner-Peyser allocations, there are constraints on hiring state staff due to a hiring freeze and union regulations, with each state staff position costing over \$100,000 including benefits. Greg announced that the Department of Labor is reviewing whether state staff must deliver Wagner-Peyser services, with a public comment period until September 2, and

mentioned new stringent work authorization requirements for all services to prevent unauthorized immigrants from receiving benefits. Rosemary Alexander noted that there were other regions in Massachusetts that were allowed a waiver and agreed that it allowed for more flexibility. Greg is on a MWA working group discussing the challenges, transition planning with an attrition model and a process to ensure a more effective service delivery.

Bob asked for a motion to adjourn. Chris Brennan made a motion. Louise Lynch seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:03.

PROGRAM	FUNCTION	DELIVERY PROCESS ??
(WIOA Title I) Training Enrollments	Administration of training funds and case management of participants	
(WIOA Title III) Wagner – Peyser	Basic Career Center Services: Resource Room, Walk-in Job Search Assistant ace, Workshops	
Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA)	Required orientation workshop and follow up one-on-one appointments to verify unemployment requirements are being met by claimants receiving checks	TBD
Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP)	Services to Veterans with an SBE (Significant Barrier to Employment)	
Business Services	Employer Services: Job posting, recruitments, job fairs and navigation of grant or tax incentives	
Unemployment Services / DUA	Application/Adjunction of unemployment benefits. We current only have limited read only access to this system	