

## **Metro South/West Career Center Committee Minutes May 21, 2025**

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

**Members absent:** Shannon Laingen

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

### **Welcome and Approval of March 12, 2025 Minutes**

Greg Bunn welcomed the members and turned the meeting over to Bob Bower. Bob asked for a motion to approve the March 12, 2025 minutes. Chris Brennan made a motion. Louise Lynch seconded. Motion passed.

### **Career Center Updates/Potential Worker Impacts**

Zoie Jaklitsch reported that there was higher participation for on demand videos due to layoffs but not many have reported Federal layoffs in the region. Unemployment claims have increased so the number of weeks has been extended from 26 to 30 weeks. ESOL classes for shelter participants are continuing. The Framingham class has graduated, and Norwood will be graduating a class soon. With the Governor's announcement that all shelters would close by the end of the summer, Faith Bertrand will pivot cohort recruitment efforts and partner with the Youth Connections team, working in the high schools. Zoie reported that the career center monitoring had been completed. Massachusetts has a hiring freeze across the Executive Branch which will impact filling state positions. This could be an issue at the virtual State Federal Job Fair taking place, on June 25. The virtual job fair, through Premier, is open to everyone, but will target Federal workers who have been affected by layoffs. There is also a Multi-Industry Career Job Fair, through the Career Center on the same date in Natick. Last year, the Career Center was promised a DUA walk-in staff person. Because this has not happened yet, there are concerns because of the hiring freeze. Rosemary Alexander will report back on the status. Greg will send the most recent DUA claimant reports, and also the last month's job postings.

### **Initial Data from FutureWorks BI Tool**

Greg reported that the MSW WB is the only workforce board that has a subscription, with FutureWorks, for a data tool which provides a business intelligence tool based on data that goes into MOSES. The information from MOSES is put into a record format, PIRL (Participant Individual Record Layout), which is used in reporting programs under WIOA. The State extracts all the data in terms of performance, job seekers, number in training, outcomes and wage matching data from DOR. That file becomes available to everyone but there is a lag time. The FutureWorks tool allows taking the raw data in PIRL and do reporting and visualizations. Greg gave a preview of the FutureWorks tool information. He will pull the data into an Excel spreadsheet, which captures all performance reports. Goals are to have the State set up a data sharing agreement so the numbers can go from the Feds to FutureWorks to make the data timelier, and have other workforce boards purchase the FutureWorks tool and set up a user group

## Continuing “Career Center of the Future” Discussion

Greg reported that there has been no information regarding formal WIOA reauthorization so the discussion of the future of the career center has been paused. He reported that there is a possibility that Job Corp will be eliminated. Job Corp is a Federal residential program with intensive onsite vocational training and supportive services, which could change the role of the career center. Job Corp concentrates on feeding career paths in trade and manufacturing programs.

### Next Meeting

Greg and Henry Bryson will report on the integrated management process for career center monitoring. Greg said that there is a plan to follow the same process for non-required monitoring of the Youth Connections and HealthcareWorks programs.

Bob asked for a motion to adjourn. Louise Lynch made a motion. Rosemary Alexander seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00.

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 Assistance, 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 currently only have limited read only access to this system	