

Metro South/West Career Center Committee Minutes, September 10, 2025

Members on Zoom Conferencing: Bob Bower, Chair, John Bogdan, Louise Lynch, Patrick Davis, Shannon Laingen, Sue Medeiros

Members absent: Rosemary Alexander

Others present, Metro South/West Workforce Board staff: Greg Bunn, MassHire Metro South/West Career Center staff: Zoie Jaklitsch; Consultant: Cindy Cedrone

Welcome and Approval of July 16, 2025 Minutes

Greg Bunn welcomed the members and turned the meeting over to Bob Bower. Bob asked for a motion to approve the July 16, 2025, minutes. Louise Lynch made a motion. John Bogdan seconded. Motion passed.

Career Center Updates

Zoie Jaklitsch reported that a Job Fair in Canton was taking place today with over 250 people registered. She noted that she had received notification that there was another 4-month waiting period before a representative from Unemployment Assistance could be assigned to the Career Center to assist with UI claims. Greg noted that due to the State's hiring freeze three state positions were still waiting to be filled, holding up \$500K of Wagner-Peyser funds that can only be used for state staff to deliver Title III services. The Federal Department of Labor has proposed a rule change allowing states to opt out of state-merit staff requirements under Wagner-Peyser. Greg has submitted comments supporting this proposal as part of a public comment period. Greg will monitor the results and report back to the committee.

Workforce Verification Policy Changes

While discussing the possibility of the Workforce Verification Policy changing for all career center in-person and virtual services, Zoie received an email from the MassHire Department of Career Services stating there was a reprieve so no local action will take place at this time.

US DOL Report Discussion

Greg reported there are 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. Zoie noted that Faith Bertrand is working with customers now that the shelters have closed, and that customers are vetted before being set up with employers. Greg said labor force participation rates for males between the ages of 25-54 are at an all-time low. He asked for input for recruiting ideas. He will gather more information on the MA labor force by industry for these men and Patrick Davis will also put together statistics. Greg also noted that there are continuing discussions in Washington about WIOA re-authorization and he will report as more information becomes available.

Bob asked for a motion to adjourn. Louise Lynch made a motion. Patrick Davis seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05.

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	