

# MSW Workforce Board Executive Committee Meeting, July 22, 2025

## Minutes

**Members on Zoom:** Lisa Kubiak, Chair, Bob Bower, Mark Fegley, Rev. Lloyd, Ernie Houle, Andy Vizulis

**Others present:** Metro South/West Workforce Board staff present: Henry Bryson, Greg Bunn; Cindy Cedrone, Consultant

### Welcome and Approval of March 13, 2025 Minutes

Greg Bunn turned the meeting over to Lisa Kubiak who welcomed everyone and asked for approval on March 13, 2025 minutes. Bob Bower made a motion to approve. Mark Fegley seconded. All members indicated approval. Motion passed.

### Federal Updates

Greg reported that “Big Beautiful Bill” did not have anything that tied directly to WIOA. Although, it will possibly impact “able bodied” individuals without children who receive Medicaid and/or SNAP benefits. In order to maintain eligibility, those individuals will be required to work a specific number of hours per week or do volunteer services. This will bring low-income adults to the career center for training and will increase referrals for WIOA training performance measures. Bob suggested the State to do a survey on the population who are collecting benefits, voicing concern that the career center may not be adequately staffed with the appropriate competencies to deal with issues that may arise.

Greg noted that as a result of these federal changes in requirements, the Governor is creating an “Anti-Hunger Task Force”. He will update as more information becomes available.

Greg gave an update stating that there had been talk about folding up the Federal workforce development programs into block grants which would be given to each state to manage, but that there does not appear to be much political appetite for this change, from Republicans or Democrats. He stated that Job Corp, a residential job program, which was slated to close has been reopened but will be phased out by the end of FY26. There will be plans for youth programs to assist with the transition process.

Greg reported that a proposed rule change had been issues related to WIOA Title III services, often called Wagner-Peyser, which under the Biden administration were required to be provided by merit/state staff. These are the core services at the career center, with minimal eligibility requirements, such as workshops, using the resource room, and one-on-one career guidance. The proposed rule change would allow states to eliminate the merit staff requirement for Title III services. Four workforce boards in MA have waivers, allowing non-state staff to offer these services. He noted the proposed rule change has a public comment period open until the first week of September. The Executive Committee agreed that it would be beneficial from an organizational, cost and public service perspective to receive a waiver. Greg noted that there would be a transition plan to keep the current state staff if the waiver is granted.

**Vote:** Ernie Houle made a motion that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Metro South/West Workforce Board, supported public comment in favor of a waiver from the Wagner-Peyser merit staff requirement. Lisa Kubiak seconded. Bob Bower abstained. All others voted in favor. Motion approved.

### State Initiatives

Greg reported that the new career center operator, Blue Hills Regional Technical High School’s contract was put into place as of July 1.

Greg reported the Board was awarded two new grants: Young Parent and Clean Energy Planning Grant.

Henry Bryson reported on Career Center Monitoring. Henry noted every year there are fewer errors and many that can be easily corrected. He noted Zoie Jaklitsch had placed Janice McQuaid as the quality control person. Henry also noted the collaboration between the board and the career center continues to improve along with the Business Services Representative team, led by Rute Vales, that also has been working more closely with other teams, including Youth Connections. Henry noted that he and Greg are working on expanding monitoring procedures for compliance and performance to include Connecting Activities, YouthWorks and Healthcare Works. He also noted that they will be cross training for succession. Bob noted the excellent job that Henry and Greg accomplished on the career center monitoring process.

Lisa asked for a motion to adjourn. Bob made a motion to adjourn. Rev. Lloyd seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.