

Metro South/West Workforce WIOA Board Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2025

Attended in person: Lisa Kubiak, Chair, Bob Bower, Craig Nesta,

Attended via Zoom: Rosemary Alexander, John Bogdan, Walter Gardner, Shannon Laingen, Rev. Lloyd, Sue Medeiros, Jason Palitsch, Nick Pavone, Chris Vericker

Members Absent: Holly Amoth, Patrick Davis, Mark Fegley, Ernie Houle, Kevin O'Connor, Charles Gagnon, Tom O'Rourke, David Podell

Others: Metro South/West Workforce Board staff: Henry Bryson, Greg Bunn, Meghan Burke, Zoie Jaklitsch, Tricia Lucier, Louise Meyer, Nilaja Pettiford, Rute Vales, Carol Wolf; Cole Angley, ED MWA, Ken Webster, McGovern Automotive; Cindy Cedrone, Consultant

Review of Agenda, Approval of April 24, 2025 minutes

Lisa Kubiak opened the meeting, confirming with Greg Bunn that there was a quorum present. Lisa asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 24, 2025. Motion: Bob Bower made a motion to approve; Susan Medeiros seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Guest Speaker: Cole Angley, Executive Director, MA Workforce Association

Cole presented an overview of the MA Workforce Association, which provides leadership, advocacy and convening at the state and federal level to the workforce boards, career centers and other workforce development organizations. He voiced his appreciation to Greg and Zoie for their continued support.

Fiscal Updates

Carol Wolf presented the financial reports, through April 30, 2025, that had been reviewed by the Finance Committee. She noted the budgets were all on track and the focus continues to be spending down the funds of the grants that have to be spent by June 30, in a compliant and responsible manner. The FY26 budget of \$11M will have approximately \$4M in carry-over funds which will help balance the 13-14% overall reduction in funds.

Board Program Updates

Greg presented a board update slide deck, which included an overview of the last six months for Youth Connections and Behavioral Health and possible fund-raising options. He reported Blue Hills was the selected bidder for the career center operator, effective July 1, 2025. He reported on new grants for FY26.

Career Center Monitoring Results

Henry Bryson gave an overview of the Career Center and WIOA Youth Monitoring process. Henry led the career center monitoring, reporting that everything was in compliance and improvements have continued each year. WIOA monitoring, led by DCS, reported minor findings. And it was noted that the one unified organization has brought positive cultural change, especially with the Business Services Team.

The Board is using a new tool, FutureWorks BI, to monitor performance based on data entered into MOSES. The Board will also use it to demonstrate the economic impact the Metro South/West MassHire Career Centers in the region with average wages times the number of jobseekers the Centers have help put back to work. Greg Invited members to join the Career Center Committee which looks closely at the numbers.

Next steps

Beginning the Annual Plan process; planning fundraising events in the fall as well as planning a healthcare expo.

Meghan Burke noting kicking off busy season with internships and asked if anyone knew of, or could run, a financial literacy workshop this summer for the Tier 1 and 2 group and she also asked if anyone would be willing to do career chats with our participants this summer. Chris Vericker offered to help with financial literacy.

Lisa asked for a motion to adjourn. Walter Gardner made a motion, Chris Vericker seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 AM.