

Metro South/West Workforce Board, Inc.
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WIOA Partners Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, December 12, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Facilitator: Tammy MacDonald, Blue Hills Adult Education

Attendance:

Sue Medeiros – MassAbility
John Afonso – MA DOC Reentry
Sandra Maiuri – Hudson-Maynard ALC
Kerri Sandberg – Metro South/West Workforce Board
Amanda Moore-Owens – Blue Hills Adult Education
Chris Rosenberg – Blue Hills Adult Education
Zoie Jaklitsch – MassHire Metro South/West
Henry Bryson – Metro South/West Workforce Board
Greg Bunn – Metro South/West Workforce Board
Sheniqua Rogers – Metro South/West Workforce Board Youth Connections
Patty Gorman – Metro South/West Workforce Board Youth Connections
Charlie Powderly – Metro West Employment Collaborative (MVEC)
Kimberly Rowe-Cummings – Department of Youth Services
Louise Lynch – Department of Transitional Assistance
Jay Rufo – MA Commission for the Blind
Kevin O'Connor – Framingham Adult ESL Plus
John Saulnier – Department of Unemployment Assistance
Cindy Cedrone – Consultant, Metro South/West Workforce Board
Kathy Innis – Middlesex Community College Adult Learning Center
Kun Chang – SCSEP / NAPAC / Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center

Minutes from the September 12, 2025 meeting were approved.

Partner Updates

- **MassHire MSW Career Center**

Zoie Jaklitsch provided updates on their recent activities, including presentations at partner agencies and participation in events like the Department of Corrections Fall Reentry Fair. Zoie shared upcoming opportunities for partner agencies—beginning with adult education and ESOL programs—to present services to Career Center customers via Zoom workshops. She highlighted a successful Veterans and Community Job Fair at Newton Library. The Career Center also received approval to post two state positions and is finalizing hiring for a local position to increase their capacity to serve customers. Zoie will distribute a flyer and information about the upcoming job fair in Framingham (February 11th) to partners for sharing with customers.

- WIOA Youth Program**

Patty Gorman reported on the WIOA Youth Program's progress, noting they had met their initial enrollment target of 8 and had achieved 2 outcomes. The program has seen increased referrals and added a third HiSET instructor to manage the Norwood office, with services now offered two days per week at the Waltham Public Library. Patty highlighted the success of their Skills Build program, which ran from August to September, with 4 graduates already accepted into unions, and 14 participants currently working and picked up by unions.
- MA Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA)**

John Saulnier provided an update on seasonal increases in initial claims and mentioned the extended closure of their contact center initiative, which has been successful in reducing the backlog and will continue through March 31st. John confirmed that a trained staff member would be deployed to the Metro West area by early January, and additional staff were in the pipeline for Framingham, Norwood, and other locations.
- Framingham Adult ESL Plus**

Kevin O'Connor noted high attrition rates due to fear in the immigrant community, and detailed the program's efforts to provide support through mental health services, food security initiatives, and legal assistance. Kevin also mentioned that the program would start accepting new students in January and offered to share a flyer for their U.S. citizenship test preparation class, which requires intermediate or better English skills.
- Hudson-Maynard Adult Learning Center**

Sandra Maiuri reported that the ESOL program is 5% over enrollment, with HiSET numbers matching targets. On December 16th, the program will administer a placement test for students joining the HiSET class in January. She mentioned two Career Center visits from Samuel and Roxana, and sought recommendations for an immigration lawyer to speak in January or February.
- Blue Hills Adult Education**

Tammy MacDonald shared that Blue Hills Adult Education is experiencing student attrition related to safety concerns and rising housing costs, but noted positive career center collaborations and a successful open house event featuring local community colleges and MassHire. Tammy is working on ensuring the correct contact information to improve the accuracy of shared customer referrals.
- Middlesex Community College Adult Learning Center**

Kathy Innis discussed the success of their Transitions to College program at Bedford, which helps students gain U.S. credentials and enter high-wage jobs. She expressed concern about potential funding cuts. She invited other programs to refer students to Bedford, particularly from Waltham, and requested information about Waltham's library program from Tricia. Greg offered to connect with Kathy offline to discuss DESE's programming challenges, while Kevin praised the value of transition programs in supporting adult basic education learners.
- MassAbility – Framingham Area Office**

Sue Medeiros reported on hiring approvals and increased scrutiny of vendor referrals due to budget constraints.
- MA Commission for the Blind – Metro West Regional Office**

Jay Rufo from the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind discussed staffing changes and their work on vocational rehabilitation.

- **MA Department of Transitional Assistance – Framingham Office**
Louise Lynch provided an update on DTA's activities, including provider meetings and the development of a new RFR.
- **Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) – Operation A.B.L.E. and Executive Office of Elder Affairs**
Kun Chang shared information on the Senior Community Service Employment Program's recent restart after funding issues.
- **MA Department of Corrections**
John Afonso discussed the Department of Corrections' efforts in employment services for incarcerated individuals.
- **Department of Youth Services (DYS)**
Kimberly Rowe-Cummings will send the Skill Up directory to Greg to distribute to the group.
- **Metro West Employment Collaborative (MVEC)**
Charlie Powderly provided a brief update on MVEC activities and partner engagement efforts.
- **Metro South/West Workforce Board**
Greg Bunn proposed extending meeting times to an hour and a half to allow for more discussion. The group discussed federal funding concerns and the potential for changes to WIOA. Greg will prepare a presentation on potential WIOA reauthorization changes and the future of Career Centers for the next meeting, and solicit input from partner agencies on how Career Centers can better serve their populations.

Action Items

- **All partners:** Update future meeting time to 1.5 hours (10:00–11:30 AM) beginning with the March 13, 2026 meeting.
- **Patty Gorman:** Send WIOA Youth service days/times at Waltham Public Library to Kathy Innis.
- **Kevin O'Connor:** Share citizenship class flyer/link with Zoie for inclusion in the newsletter.
- **Kimberly Rowe-Cummings:** Send Skill Up directory to Greg Bunn for distribution.
- **Greg Bunn:**
 - Follow up with John Saulnier regarding DUA staff deployment date and update the group.
 - Prepare presentation on potential WIOA reauthorization and Career Center impacts for the next meeting.

FY26 Meeting Schedule:

- ~~Q1: September 12, 2025 – 10:00 AM~~
- ~~Q2: December 12, 2025 – 10:00 AM~~
- Q3: March 13, 2026 – 10:00 AM
- Q4: June 12, 2026 – 10:00 AM