



**Metro South/West Workforce Board Youth Connections Committee Minutes  
November 25, 2024**

**Members present:** Chair, Ernie Houle, Jennifer Jackson, Kevin Lopez

**Members absent:** Yemi Ajao, Nick Pavone, Lexi Winter

**Other:** Kerry Bartlett, Hudson HS, Nicole Marchand, DCF, Rich Terrio, Big Brothers/Big Sisters  
MassHire Metro South/West Workforce Board Staff: Ron Andrews, Henry Bryson, Greg Bunn, Meghan  
Burke, Tricia Lucier, Louise Meyer, Sheniqua Rogers, Jenna Thyne, Admin Consultant: Cindy Cedrone

**Review of Agenda, Welcome**

Ernie Houle called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

**Approval of September 16, 2024**

September 16, 2024 minutes will be approved at the January meeting due to lack of quorum.

**HiSet-Program Overview and Updates**

Ron Andrews, Jenna Thyne and Tricia Lucier gave an overview of the HiSet Program which is an equivalent to GED. It was noted that there has been an increase in referrals since COVID. Last year there were 45 students, and that number is expected to increase by at least 15 by the end of the year. They reported that each WIOA-eligible youth is enrolled in person, to determine academic needs to tailor tutoring specifically for each person, for a solid career pathway, which sets the HiSet Program apart from other similar programs. They use interactive digital programs, with games and videos. They are self-paced and offer 24-hour support. Testing is done in-house. Rich Terrio suggested using volunteers to also offer support.

**Program Updates**

Meghan Burke reported that the Construction/Trade Expo is being held on April 1, 2025, at the same location in Marlborough, through funding from the Community Foundation for MetroWest. Planning stages have started, and schools are being asked for student assessments. Rute Vale and Leo Sena are taking the lead on business outreach which will be more localized.

The Community Foundation for MetroWest has indicated interest in continuing to fund these types of events so a discussion will be planned, with the foundation, for a healthcare and social services event to be held next year as well.

Meghan reported that monthly school partnership meetings have been held with great success to receive information directly from the schools on students' needs.

Nicole Marchand announced that DCF will be holding a College & Career Fair on April 24, 2025.

Information will be sent out.

**Adjourn**

Ernie called for the meeting to be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m..