**MSW Workforce Board Executive Committee Meeting,**
**June 11, 2026 Minutes**

**Members on Zoom:** Lisa Kubiak, Chair, Bob Bower, Ernie Houle

Members Absent: Mark Fegley, Rev. Lloyd, Andy Vizulis

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

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

Greg Bunn turned the meeting over to Lisa Kubiak who welcomed everyone. Approval of November 13, 2025 minutes were tabled until the next meeting due to not having quorum.

**Event Updates**

Greg provided updates on recent activities and administrative matters for the Metro Southwest Workforce Board. Key highlights included successful events in April, such as the Mass Workforce Association annual meeting at Foxborough and the Trade and Construction Expo, which attracted nearly 600 attendees and received positive press coverage.

**Board Operations**

The board completed its biennial certification and career center monitoring, with Henry Bryson reporting that the Career Center continues to operate in compliance. Greg also discussed a new migrant seasonal farm worker monitoring that is required by the State. He also gave updates on the organization's financial platform migration from Great Plains to Blackbaud, which will enhance security and provide better access for the staff.

**AI Implementation**

Greg covered the Board's AI implementation strategy that is discussed with the Integrated Management Team, with some concerns raised about potential worker dislocation and the need for careful policy development. Ernie Houle discussed how AI tools should be viewed as helpful resources rather than replacements for human skills, comparing them to historical tools like the abacus and Cliff Notes. Bob Bower raised concerns about unmonitored AI usage in training programs, specifically mentioning issues with OSHA 10 certification where students use AI to complete requirements without proper understanding. Greg indicated that he would consider including interested participants on an upcoming advisory committee for training content approval.

**Federal/State Updates**

Greg reported on federal funding challenges, explaining that the House Appropriation Committee is proposing significant cuts including a $700 million reduction in WIOA funding and elimination of WIOA youth programs. He noted that while the WIOA reauthorization bill (ASWA) contains similar funding levels, the actual implementation depends on the appropriations bill passing. Greg suggested that if WIOA programs are eliminated, the state should transition to a full block grant system, which would provide more flexibility while maintaining the current board structure. He also mentioned that alternative funding sources are being developed, including the successful Young Parent Program which has doubled its slots from eight to sixteen.

Greg provided updates on funding, explaining that while federal funding remains stable, state budget proposals show some cuts to key programs. The career center line item is level-funded at approximately $8.1 million, but other programs face reductions including the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (cut from $10 million to $5 million) and YouthWorks (decreased by about $5-6 million due to the loss of ARPA funding). Greg mentioned ongoing lobbying efforts to restore some of these cuts, particularly seeking to increase funding for the career center, Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund, and YouthWorks programs. Greg presented data showing significant funding disparities in the YouthWorks program allocation, revealing that Metro Southwest region received only $41 per student compared to other regions getting triple that amount despite serving similar or more students. He shared his concerns with Commonwealth Corporation, but they defended the allocation as their first attempt using data and indicated only minor adjustments would be made next year.

Greg discussed funding disparities in his region, noting that areas perceived as urban or gateway cities are receiving higher funding despite similar population metrics. He plans to engage with state representatives, including Karen Spilka's team, to address this inequality. Lisa shared information about a recent elder care workforce roundtable discussion in Boston where she suggested involving workforce boards in future initiatives, though no state labor and workforce development representatives attended.

Lisa asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob made a motion. Ernie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.