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

Date: Friday, June 12, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Facilitator: Tammy MacDonald, Blue Hills Adult Education

Attendance:
John Afonso – MA DOC Reentry
Henry Bryson – Metro South/West Workforce Board
Greg Bunn – Metro South/West Workforce Board
Erin Fallon – MassHire Department of Career Services
Ernest Houle – Assabet Valley
Zoie Jaklitsch – MassHire Metro South/West
Sandra Maiuri – Hudson-Maynard ALC
Sue Medeiros – MassAbility
Amanda Moore-Owens – Blue Hills Adult Education
Nilaja Pettiford – MassHire Metro South/West Career Centers
Chris Rosenberg – Blue Hills Adult Education
Kimberly Rowe-Cummings – Department of Youth Services
Jay Rufo – MA Commission for the Blind
Kerri Sandberg – HealthCareWorks
Stephen Souffrant – MassHire Metro South/West Career Center
Kevin O'Connor – Framingham Adult ESL Plus

Approval of Previous Minutes
The minutes from the March 13, 2026 meeting were approved as presented.

Partner Updates

- **MassHire Metro South/West Career Center** – Zoie Jaklitsch Career Center continues outreach and coordination with community partners, including housing authorities, DTA, MassAbility, and other referral partners. A July 7th housing partnership event is planned to connect shared customers to employment and support services. Blue Hills Adult Education, Framingham Adult ESL Plus, and Hudson-Maynard Adult Learning Center will present at a Career Center staff meeting then offer workshops. A May 28th WPP/DTA meeting in Framingham brought together approximately 20 staff to improve service coordination. The Career Center is planning the Canton Job Fair on September 24th. Staffing updates include hiring a new front desk staff member in Framingham who previously participated in ESOL services. Monitoring activities have concluded.

- **WIOA Youth Program** – Greg Bunn (for Tricia) Youth program continues to grow and improve and plans to expand capacity and collaborate with the Young Parent Program.

HiSET preparation and training supports remain an important component of youth services.

- **Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA)** – John Saulnier (absent) Reimbursement program services that had been temporarily offline have resumed.Career Centers continue focusing on improving customer experience and making services accessible and valuable for dislocated workers.

- **Framingham Adult ESL Plus** – Kevin O'Connor Program year is concluding; no summer classes will be offered. Summer supports include advising and wraparound services. Program funding remains level funded. Partners were encouraged to advocate for FY28 adult education funding through COABE. Shared information about English for a Strong Economy (workplace/vocational English programming).

- **Blue Hills Adult Education** – Tammy MacDonald Blue Hills Adult Education continues to see strong demand with an active waitlist. Ongoing challenges include ABE enrollment and student retention due to work schedules, childcare, transportation, and other barriers. Blue Hills is fully staffed and funded for FY27. ABE registration will be held July 2 and August 19; ESOL registration remains available by appointment. Partners were invited to participate in the December 8 open house and share resources with students.

- **Hudson-Maynard Adult Learning Center** – Sandra Maiuri Enrollment remains strong, with increased interest from higher-level students. Retention and ABE enrollment continue to be challenges. Sandra expressed interest in continued coordination with WIOA Youth and partners for ABE referrals.

- **MassAbility** – Sue Medeiros Sue announced her retirement; her replacement will be Vinette McKay. MassAbility is undergoing organizational changes, including updated vendor processes and a shift toward statewide service delivery with regional pods.Efforts continue to improve transitions from youth to adult services and strengthen partner coordination. Main office location will remain unchanged.

- **Massachusetts Commission for the Blind** – Jay Rufo Vocational rehabilitation services successfully supported approximately 35 individuals transitioning to employment. The Visions of Collaboration Conference brought together partners supporting blind and visually impaired youth and young adults. Summer internship program includes 65 interns statewide, including 13 in the Metro South/West region.

- **Department of Corrections** – John Afonso DOC continues strengthening partnerships with MassHire and ABCD to connect returning citizens with workforce services. Manufacturing Associate certification program served 18 participants; 6 have obtained employment. HOPE VI grant supports hospitality employment pathways, with 19 participants currently engaged. Franklin Cummings Tech building maintenance training grant remains pending.

- **Metro South/West Workforce Board** –

    - Henry Bryson Annual monitoring of Career Centers and WIOA Youth Programs has concluded. Monitoring showed continued improvement in compliance, reporting accuracy, and service delivery. Partners will receive final monitoring reports when available. Workforce Board completed its two-year certification.

- Kerri Sandberg shared updates on healthcare workforce initiatives, including Registered Behavioral Technician training opportunities and expansion of mental health training efforts.

- Greg Bunn provided an overview of potential federal funding changes affecting workforce programs. Greg provided updates on federal and state budget proposals affecting workforce programs,noting significant cuts to programs like WIOA and potential elimination of WIOA youth and adult funding. The Stronger Workforce for America Act could provide some relief through block grants. He discussed potential changes to career center operations, including a possible shift to a hub-and-spoke model with affiliate sites at libraries and other community locations. The group agreed to continue quarterly partner meetings in FY27 to maintain collaboration and prepare for potential program changes.

Action Items

- Greg/Tammy will share final monitoring reports with partners when available.
- Zoie will continue promoting the July 7th housing authority event and Career Center outreach opportunities.
- Zoie will share information regarding the September 24th Canton Job Fair.
- Partners will support advocacy efforts related to FY28 adult education funding.
- Future meetings will include continued discussion of potential workforce system changes and funding impacts.

FY27 Meeting Schedule

- Q1 September 11, 2026 – 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
- Q2: December 11, 2026 – 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
- Q3: March 12, 2027 – 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
- Q4: June 11, 2027 – 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM