Metro South/West Workforce Board WIOA Board Zoom Meeting

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Attended: Lisa Kubiak, Chair, John Bogdan, Bob Bower, Patrick Davis, Mark Fegley, Walter Gardner, Ernie Houle, Shannon Laingen, Rev. Lloyd, Craig Nesta, Tom O'Rourke, Jason Palitsch, Nick Pavone, David Podell, Laura Reiman, Chris Vericker, Ken Webster

Members Absent: Kevin O'Connor, Ashley Terrill

Others: Metro South/West Workforce Board staff: Meghan Burke, Greg Bunn, Henry Bryson, Tricia Lucier, Louise Meyer, Rute Vale, Carol Wolf. Cindy Cedrone, Consultant
Guest: Cole Angley, Mass Workforce Association.

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Welcome, Introductions

Greg Bunn welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to Lisa Kubiak

Approval of April 23, 2026 Minutes

Lisa asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2026. Chris Vericker made a motion to approve. Rev. Lloyd seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Fiscal Updates

Carol Wolf presented financial data showing approximately 35% of the projected budget remains, with potential carryover of $2.5-3 million, though funding allocations for FY27 remain uncertain due to changing unemployment rates and complex allocation processes. The team discussed a projected 15-25% reduction in federal grants, with several multi-year programs ending, though core operations and career center services are not expected to be significantly impacted in the short term.

Career Center Monitoring

Greg emphasized the importance of career center monitoring as a foundational requirement of the Workforce Board, noting that the process has been recognized as a best practice by DCS.
Henry Bryson provided detailed updates on the types of monitoring conducted this year, noting positive findings from DCS monitor, Erin Fallon; migrant seasonal farm worker monitoring which revealed very few eligible customers in the region; and board monitoring that highlighted excellent collaboration between Career Center and Youth Connections

programs. He will share a draft of the DCS monitoring report with the board when it is available and will coordinate board responses.

Federal WIOA Updates

Cole Angley, Executive Director of the Mass Workforce Association, provided insights into federal budget proposals, noting potential cuts and program consolidations, though he expressed optimism that these extreme measures are unlikely to pass due to bipartisan support for workforce development. Cole also discussed the status of WIOA Reauthorization efforts, highlighting concerns about proposed changes, including increased training requirements and potential reductions in workforce areas.

Next Steps

Greg outlined several new apprenticeship programs being developed, including automotive and youth development practitioner apprenticeships, and discussed plans to modernize career centers with a hub-and-spoke model focusing on remote services. The group also noted progress with union placements through the SkillsBuild program, reaching 18 participants, and discussed upcoming work on the annual plan for September-October.

Lisa Kubiak had to leave the meeting, so Ernie Houle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Bogdan made a motion. Rev. Lloyd seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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