



# **YOUTH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2013  
Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board  
439 South Union Street  
Lawrence, MA 01843**

### **Youth Council MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Howard Allen, Steve Noroian, Cal Williams, Ellen Weinhold, Megan Shea, Barbara Richards, Ed Warnshuis

### **MVWIB Youth Council MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Marina Acosta, Janet Allison, Irene Chalek, Francisco Brea, Brad Howell, Tom Connors, Ed Fitzgerald, April Lyskowsky, Linda Piergeorge, Donna Rivera, Michael Strem, Beverly DeSalvo

### **MVWIB STAFF PRESENT:**

Rafael Abislaiman, Cristy Gomez, Mary Kivell

### **OTHERS:**

George Moriarty, Lisa Coy

#### **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

A quorum being present, Cal Williams called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. and introductions were made around the table.

#### **II. Approval of May 8, 2013 Minutes**

Cal then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2013 meeting.

**Motion by Megan Shea seconded by Howard Allen to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2013 Youth Council minutes as submitted. Motion passed.**

Cal said that the Youth Council is a subcommittee of the MVWIB and welcomed board chairman Joseph Bevilacqua. Mr. Bevilacqua said that he is looking forward to hear from George Moriarty. Cal said that he serves on the NECC Occupational Advisory Board with Mr. Moriarty and invited him to speak at today's meeting.

### **III. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: George Moriarty, NECC Director of Workforce Development & Corporate Relations**

Mr. Moriarty said that the hard copy of today's Youth Council presentation is the same as one he provided to the NECC Advisory Board. His presentation is about NECC's manufacturing training efforts.

He said that there has been a push across the state to revitalize manufacturing in Massachusetts. Manufacturing is the third largest sector in Massachusetts with 14.2% of jobs in the Northeast region. Mr. Moriarty said that manufacturing has diminished over the last three or four decades and that it is not as strong as it used to be due to jobs going overseas and advances in technology. George stated that many manufacturing jobs do not require a four year college degree and we should try to keep as many of them as possible.

George said that health care, financial sector, leisure and hospitality jobs are bouncing back but 43% of manufactures reported difficulty recruiting skilled workers. Manufacturing currently employs a great number of workers approaching retirement age. Over 50% of current manufacturing employees will be retiring soon. The manufacturing sector is expected to have over 100,000 job openings over the next few years. Many of these jobs are in advanced manufacturing and pay well. Companies such as Magellan Aerospace, Arwood Manufacturing and GEM are looking for employees. The jobs are also in clean and attractive spaces with precision instruments and quiet machines. Workers are cross-trained in multiple functional areas with extensive use of computers.

Mr. Moriarty then spoke about a nine week pilot program at the Northern Essex Community College (NECC) Riverwalk Campus. It is an introduction to the manufacturing sector and machine tool occupations with NECC classes in math, blueprint reading, and metrology. It also includes hands-on instruction at the vocational school and an added 80 hour online component in Cycle 2. They are using Amatrol and Tooling You software for the online component.

He said that several years ago, due to lack of student interest, Greater Lawrence Technical School, sold off many of their machines and they are trying to get some more. Whittier is well equipped. NECC's first cycle was launched in February with six trainees and Greater Lawrence Technical School as a partner. The second cycle launched in April with nine trainees and Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School as a partner. George said that NECC hopes to launch the third session in the fall and to expand. He also said that the goal is for all students to obtain NIMS certification.

George then spoke of the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium and a grant from Commonwealth Corporation in the amount of \$500,000. This consortium includes three community colleges (Northern Essex, Middlesex, and North Shore) four vocational schools and four WIBs with three waves of training planned. The first will be at Middlesex in the fall, the second at NECC in February and then North Shore. They will provide a machine tool program and an electronics program. The One Stop Career Centers will recruit and screen applicants and the WIBs will do labor market analysis. The grant includes job shadowing and internships with a goal of training 79

unemployed or underemployed people over the three year grant. We are trying to be receptive to the needs of employers and make sure that young people know about manufacturing.

Discussion followed on whether companies such as Magellan Aerospace, Arwood and GEM might be receptive to hosting a group of youngsters to come in and see what manufacturing is about. Ed Warnhuis spoke about Greg Mills who owns Mills Machine Shop and hosts 5 or 6 kids on Saturdays. Rafael mentioned that Mr. Mills was a member of the consortium.

Rafael said that he is pleased that manufacturing is coming back to the US with good jobs but noted that over the past few decades 70% have gone away. The reason they are now looking at coming back is cheap energy, wages elsewhere are rising, and the aging workforce. He cautioned that a lot of manufacturing is defense related. Ed Warnhuis said that in the past with defense cuts smart companies reinvented themselves such a Lockheed Martin and Raytheon.

George also said that they had eight or nine people from Raytheon review the curriculum and they have a great relationship with the technical schools. He said that each of the regions will get around 20 students out of the 79 and Rafael said that all applicants should go through the Career Centers. He suggested emailing him or Chili if anyone wants additional information. Steve Noroian asked about screening process and George said a minimum of 8<sup>th</sup> grade math would be required so that people could read a blueprint. Megan also said they may do another informational session in September.

Joe said that he apologized but he has to leave for another meeting. He said that George Moriarty has been a leader in workforce development and he enjoyed his presentation. He spoke about a visit to Boeing which is manufacturing the new dream liner jet and how important Boeing regards their aggressive training program. If a worker makes a mistake they go to a room for reorientation, if they make another mistake the go to a room again and get help. After their third mistake they are out. If they stay they have a tremendous opportunity that requires ongoing training and skills development. He also noted that at our last meeting we had Eric Nakajima address the board on the role of the state refocusing on manufacturing. This was a timely discussion on great jobs and wages but Joe said that our students have to learn. Our training partners like the vocational schools and Northern Essex all feed the network and work to make kids better as our kids are in competition worldwide.

#### **IV. FY'14 Youth Funding**

Rafael Abislaiman reported on FY'14 youth funding. Rafael said that state funding is not finalized but WIA Youth funding seems to be taking the smallest Federal cut. At the State level, we currently have \$83,000 for YouthWorks and 600 applicants. But the \$83,000 figure may go up dramatically. With \$83K, we will only be able to place 43 kids in our subsidized summer employment program. BOG there will only be 10 Bridging the Opportunity Gap (BOG) Program slots. BOG serves court-involved youth.

The legislature is considering whether to do a budget line item or a budget amendment for the FY'15 youth summer employment program. So there is a possibility that we

won't have to wait till the last moment to know our FY' 15 allocation when that time comes.

## **V. Youth Programs Update**

Youth Program Manager Cristy Gomez presented the Youth Program Updates. She said that the MVWIB and ValleyWorks Career Center submitted an application for the FY'14 Bridging the Opportunity Gap (BOG) Program. We proposed a summer and year round BOG Work-based Learning Programs that together will serve thirty youth, ten during the summer and twenty during the fall and spring.

Cristy also said that we submitted the FY'14 Connecting Activities application for \$110,000 to provide services to 325 students. She also said that the initial YouthWorks funding as Rafael reported is only \$83,709 to enroll 43 youth with a total minimum Youth Wages and Stipends of \$56,242.

Rafael said that currently Lawrence and Haverhill youth will be enrolled but if we receive additional funding we can add slots. He also reported that we have received two private grants; one from Walmart for \$30,000 and one from Eastern Bank for \$10,000.

Cristy also said we have been working on teacher externships and Howard Allen said that he reached out to 15 community high schools and middle school teachers. We have gotten responses and will be following up.

## **V. Partner's Information**

Cal then called on Youth Council members to share their organization's information. Lisa Coy from YouthBuild said that there are three openings for AmeriCorps employees which is a good opportunity for recent college graduates. She also said that participants are registering for their GED as the Adult Learning Center is closed for the summer and there are very few slots for those who want to pass their GED before December when testing changes.

Steve Noroian said that his office is moving to 280 Merrimack Street in a couple of weeks.

Megan Shea said that she hired her Job Developer, Ann Shaw and is pleased to have her program fully staffed.

Rafael Abislaiman then said that he wanted to say that Heidi Riccio did a fine job serving on this Youth Council and he wanted to say that to her but hasn't been able to reach her via email. He said that she was a very dedicated professional.

Ed Warnhuis distributed copies of the Andover Townman article on Jen Meagher, his daughter, and explained the situation wherein she was fired for sending an email from her home computer as union treasurer to teachers. He said that she is a great teacher and asked if anyone would consider emailing the Townsman to reinstate her.

Cal asked George Moriarty if they have the support of the unions and George said that Raytheon union is 100% behind the program and they are training workers there now.

**VI. Adjournment**

**Having no further business Howard Allen made a motion to adjourn seconded by Ed Warnhuis. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Kivell*

Mary Kivell

Recorder