



# **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 9, 2016  
Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board  
439 South Union – Suite 102  
Lawrence, MA 01843**

### **Youth Committee MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tom Raiche, Lisa Remington, Michael Strem, David Tagliaferri, Ellen Weinhold, Cal Williams

### **MVWIB Youth Committee MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Howard Allen, Michael Bevilacqua, Francisco Brea, Irene Chalek, Kelly Conlin, Beverly DeSalvo, Brad Howell, Superintendent John Lavoie, April Lyszkowsky, Sonia Morales, Linda Piergeorge, Donna Rivera, Ed Warnshuis

### **MVWIB STAFF PRESENT:**

Rafael Abislaiman, Cristy Gomez, Mary Kivell

**OTHERS:** Alishah Mohammed for April Lyszkowsky

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

A quorum being present Cal Williams called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. Introductions were made around the table. Rafael Abislaiman reported that the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Partnership was awarded the Partnership of the Year award from the Workforce Solutions Group at their annual Statewide Jobs and Workforce Summit. Brian Norris, Director of the Consortium accepted the award on behalf of the consortium.

### **II. Approval of September 14, 2016 Minutes**

Cal Williams called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016 minutes.

**Motion by Ellen Weinhold, seconded by Tom Raiche, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016 meeting as submitted. Motion passed.**

### **III. Guest Speaker**

Cal Williams said that Ed Warnshuis had to take care of an unexpected family matter and would be unable to present his update on LPS today. Cal said that MVWIB Executive Director Rafael Abislaiman would be presenting on a Commonwealth Corporation program titled "Signal Success."

Rafael distributed a handout from the Commonwealth Corporation titled Signal Success Prepares Students for Careers explaining the program. Rafael said it is an expanded version of a curriculum that we have been using for the past few years with youth receiving subsidized summer jobs. That program has been expanded to 120 hours and has enormous potential for those working to help youth.

Rafael said that kids have to endure a lot in the inner city including schools, neighborhoods and even families who are often dysfunctional. It can be very difficult for them. He said that he recently attended a presentation from Commonwealth Corporation at Greater Lawrence Technical School. He stated that Signalling Success hopes to help kids trapped in environments where there may be insufficient into on what it takes to learn and succeed at work. He said that the program shows positive results in soft skills development. By simply being exposed to some of the things middle class people know, many low-income and poor kids learn helpful attitudes and behavior.

Rafael continued stating that today parents are working and young people maybe don't have the stability we enjoyed. This program tells them how to behave at work etc. The person who wrote the program went to Columbia University and is a remarkable presenter and clear thinker. He said that if anyone would like a presentation from Commonwealth Corporation he would be happy to help set it up. He said that GLTS is purchasing the program at a cost of \$12,000 that includes staff support and will begin next school year. Rafael said that it is a very good product and he is happy to promote it.

Tom Raiche wondered how it was implemented. Rafael said that there are three systems in the state that have implemented it. They can implement it during or after school or incorporate it as part of other classes. Cristy said that we have been using it for Summer Youth for the past four years. The Summer Youth have fifteen hours and the Year Round Youth twenty hours of instruction. This helps them to get ready for jobs. Instruction includes interviewing, workplace safety and financial literacy. Commonwealth Corporation offers technical assistance. They will be visiting us next week on Monday to observe our year round youth orientation. We front load the curriculum for youth and they cannot be placed at a job site until they complete the curriculum. Rafael said they learn things as simple as, if a supervisor tells them to do something work-related they need to do it. Cristy said that they must write a reflection paper which becomes part of a portfolio and we do a pre and post program survey to

show growth. He also said that we had a very good summer program and two of the four kids placed at the Boating Program are guaranteed a job next summer.

Rafael said that it helps kids who don't know what to do in the real work world and not make believe TV, popular music or rap worlds. David said that the handout cites Lowell High School, Malden High School, and Sociedad Latina as using the program. He said that it might be helpful to hear from them how the program is working.

#### **IV. Programs Update, Partner's Information, & WIOA Update**

David Tagliaferri spoke about a program at 15 Union Street called Youth Forward which is a drop in center for disconnected youth. Ellen Weinhold has visited the site and said it is great and that she wished they could get some beds for these youth who have nowhere to go. David said that they have recently added a shower and a washer/dryer for the youth. It is a casual drop-in center and that helps draw some kids in. It serves kids 16-24 year old who are not connected to other services.

Lisa Remington mentioned that she has a client who is a recent immigrant with limited insurance through Mass Health. She had to leave her children in the Dominican Republic and Lisa said that she is looking for resources. Ellen Weinhold suggested Lisa should reach out to Amy Ackroyd at 15 Union Street – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Rafael said that everyone carries the possibility of going off the rails without good help. David said that if services are provided earlier rather than later then the outcome is must better. He also said that they are trying to work with the courts and are looking at a subset grant to provide services. Allishah said there is a program online that provides instruction on resumes, cover letters, etc. Youth also need the critical thinking and coping skills and would definitely benefit from the Signal Success program. David also spoke about young adults that cannot be mainstreamed and are high risk. He said that they have 30-40 such young adults.

Rafael then said that he doesn't have much to report on the progress of WIOA. We are continuing to await directions from the state and feds. Lisa Remington said that she went to a training for the final rules for WIOA. Rafael also mentioned that at the national level one party may soon have very different perspectives than what previously come out of Congress.

Lisa said that the state is still putting together WIOA policies and that the mandated partners are still on as partners. She also said that she attended the first of more meetings on the Performance Indicators and reported on the youth performance indicators. The first is educational achievement for those who are basic skills deficient at entry who achieve a gain of one or more educational functional levels; second is to attain a high school diploma or equivalent; third is students enrolled in secondary or post-secondary whose transcript/report card for one academic year is achieving the state unit's policies for academic standards; fourth is participants enrolled in on the job

training, apprenticeship or work experience attain a satisfactory or better progress report toward an established milestone from an employer/training provider; and fifth successfully completed an exam for a particular occupation, or progress in attaining technical or occupational skills as evidenced by trade-related benchmarks.

Lisa said that youth performance indicators are again employment or post-secondary education but in the second quarter after exit; in employment or post-secondary education or training in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter after exit; median wages second quarter after exit; credential attainment; measurable skill gain; employer retention measure.

Allishah said that it is often difficult as YouthBuild is bound by the same reporting and youth often are transient changing phone numbers and addresses which effects outcomes. She also mentioned the pull of easy money for these youth.

Lisa relayed a story of a young person at the desk looking for help and the UPS recruiter saw him and went above and beyond getting him into the Earn and Learn program with UPS who provides transportation. Lisa then finished saying that they are still recruiting for the group program with Hi-Set remediation at LARE. She said that one third of the ITA funds have been spent.

David mentioned that one state adopted two minimum wage standards and a minimum wage job is often the first line of opportunity for some youth.

Tom Raiche said that the AFL-CIO has an apprenticeship program that is doing great.

Cristy Gomez reported that the BOG program has six enrollees with a target of twenty for the year. Cristy said that the Year Round Youth Program curriculum is twenty hours and starts next Monday and will continue with the second cohort in January. There are twenty-six youth with 20% DYS, DCS, or homeless. The YMCA may hire the youth if they work out. Under Connecting Activities we conducted a manufacturing tour for 19 youth, with Brian Norris' help at Magellan in Haverhill.

## **V. Other Business**

There was no other business. Cal wished everyone Happy Holidays.

## **VII Adjourn**

**Having no further business Tom Raiche made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David Tagliaferri. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Kivell*

Mary Kivell  
Recorder