



YOUTH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

**Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board
255 Essex Street, 4th Floor
Lawrence, MA 01840**

Youth Committee MEMBERS PRESENT:

Howard Allen, Elizabeth Bennett, Irene Chalek, Tom Raiche, Lisa Remington, Ellen Weinhold, Cal Williams

MVWIB Youth Committee MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Bevilacqua, Francisco Brea, Brad Howell, April Lyskowsky Sonia Morales, Ed Warnshuis, Katherine Sweeney, David Tagliaferri,

MVWIB Staff Present:

Cristy Gomez, Corina Ruiz, Beverly Stopyra

Guest Present:

Jay Bartoszek, Danielle, Drummond

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. Introductions were made around the table.

II. Approval of the December 13, 2017 Minutes

Cal called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2017 meeting.

Motion by Howard Allen, seconded by Ellen Weinhold, to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Guest Speaker: Danielle Drummond, Community Engagement Manager, Mass Mentoring Partnership

Cal introduced Danielle Drummond, Mass Mentoring Partnership (MMP) Community Engagement Manager. Danielle started with an ice breaker. She asked everyone to

take a minute to think about someone who was a mentor while they were growing up and what their characteristics were.

Danielle said she works with high school staff and youth in Boston, Lawrence, Lynn and Salem. She gave a brief background of her previous work. She worked as a senior planner for the City of Boston, was a charter school founder, a Youth Violence Prevention worker and Assistant Director for incarcerated men pre-release. She finds joy in helping build capacity and is excited about working with people at Lawrence High School.

Danielle said MMP's vision is for young people to engage in empowering youth-adult relationships that create more vibrant and resilient communities. MMP's trainings are customizable. They bring evidence based practices, national networks, research, organizational capacity building, and years of experience in the nonprofit, education and social service world.

MMP works with organizations to provide technical assistance and training. Through their trainings, they create connections that empower youth who interact with adults. They teach cultural responsiveness and trauma response practices; and family connection development via customizable trainings.

MMP is currently working with: Lawrence High School 9th Grade Academy Success Mentors (FSMV), Holyoke/Springfield-Success Mentors, Lawrence High School 10th - 12th Academies, Salem's Our Salem/Our Kids, Boston's MBK, Mayor's Mentoring Movement and Boston Public Schools Success Mentors.

Irene Chalek wondered if mentorship would be appropriate for adults and Danielle said yes.

Ellen Weinhold asked if anything can be done for aging-out youth because they are so many of them that are homeless. Danielle said they can explore those issues and see what can be done and whether to connect them with other agencies.

Liz Bennett asked how do they chose who to work with and how can they benefit from their services and Danielle said to reach out to her.

Irene asked if they can provide training to a group of agencies and Danielle said absolutely.

Tom Raiche asked if MMP has done work in Lowell and Danielle said yes, they have done trainings there in the past.

Cal asked if MMP seeks outside grants and Danielle said yes. Cal also asked if they work with chambers of commerce and Danielle said yes.

IV. Program Update

Cristy gave an update on the youth programs. The MVWIB received a fourth year-long Amp It Up! Grant. This grant will fund externship programs for 10 teachers. The teachers will receive stipends to familiarize themselves with manufacturing procedures at various manufacturing plants with the hope that they'll be able to take lessons learned and include them as contextual matter in their classroom curriculums. The grant is from January through November 2018. As part of the grant, company tours will also be provided for youth. Irene asked what companies and Cristy said they will be advanced manufacturing companies.

Cristy said the MVWIB is recruiting youth for YouthWorks Year-Round. The first cohort had 8 youth from Haverhill High School. These youth received 80 hours of training and 20 hours of signal success workshops.

Cristy said that staff at Commonwealth Corporation informed her that the MVWIB is expected to receive level funding for Summer YouthWorks. Last year we had 99% enrollment with 227 youth. Funds provided subsidized employment to those 227 youth who worked at about 70 companies.

Through the Connecting Activities grant, MVWIB/VWCC staff are assisting Lawrence High School with their internship program. We also help with job shadow day, workshops, and company tours.

Cristy said there will be an employer kick-off breakfast where MMP staff will offer a one hour training.

V. Partner's Information

Irene mentioned two programs NECC is offering. The English for Immigrant Professionals and the Business Management Fundamentals Certificate for English Language Learners. Both programs are free and they start in March 2018. For more information you may contact Delia Duran-Clark at dduranclark@necc.mass.edu. Lisa Remington added that Massachusetts is looking to see how they can help professionals from other countries transfer their credentials.

Ellen Weinhold mentioned the annual Children's Champion Breakfast. The event will be held at the Methuen YMCA on April 4, 2018, at 8:00AM. She will email everyone the invitation.

Liz Bennett said GLTS is running a CNC program with the MVWIB. CNC classes for ex-offenders will take place during vacation week. GLTS has recently partnered with Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFA) to run a STEM program with MIT helping. It is going great. Liz concluded by saying that a lot of innovative things are happening at GLTS such as breaking grounds for the new STEM Innovation Lab.

Lisa Remington said that CNC TechHire training is going well. The average student age is 21. They will be doing career readiness training in April. Lisa mentioned that there will be two quality training programs that will take place at Middlesex Community College. The program will start in April and run Monday – Thursday 3-8pm. Lisa passed out a flyer.

Lisa quickly mentioned the MVWIBs Learn to Earn Initiative will be addressing the cliff effect by training head-start parents in CNC machining.

Jay Bartoszek said Youth Build started a new cohort and hired new employees. The rise program has 60 kids. The opening of the SISU center went well. They are now breaking ground above the cafeteria for the new barbershop.

Tom Raiche talked about Hopkinton and how the committee should tour the facility. Tom will arrange the tour.

Cal said United Way has received \$1.5 billion in donations from UPS since 1982. They are currently working with the teamsters union to train in CDL.

VI. WIOA Update

No WIOA update.

VII. Other Business

No other business.

VIII. Adjourn

Having no further business Howard Allen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Liz Bennett. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Corina Ruiz

Corina Ruiz
Recorder