



# **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 14, 2017  
Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board  
255 Essex Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lawrence, MA 01840**

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

Liz Bennett, Francisco Brea, April Lyszkowsky, Tom Raiche, Lisa Remington, Ellen Weinhold, Cal Williams

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

Michael Bevilacqua, Irene Chalek, Kelly Conlin, Beverly DeSalvo, Sonia Morales, Ed Warnshuis, Howard Allen, Brad Howell, David Tagliaferri

### **MVWIB Staff Present:**

Rafael Abislaiman, Cristy Gomez, Corina Ruiz

### **Guest Present:**

Jackie Ramiro

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

Cal Williams called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Introductions were made around the table.

### **II. Approval of the January 11, 2017 Minutes**

Cal Williams called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2017 minutes.

**Motion by Ellen Weinhold, seconded by Francisco Brea, to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2017 meeting as submitted. Motion did not pass due to lack of quorum.**

### **III. Guest Speaker**

Rafael Abislaiman announced that Rosalin Acosta, current MVWIB member, will be the

new Mass Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development come July 1<sup>st</sup>. Rosalin has gained workforce development related experience on our board. Due to her new role, she will be resigning from the MVWIB at the end of the month.

Rafael continued by saying that the MVWIB's current budget situation is problematic. It is owed quite a bit of money from the State and also Federal money that passes through the State. We also lost the opportunity to receive additional National Emergency Grant funds due to miscommunications between the State and Feds and some in-State financial tracking issues. He noted that MA DOL has been under a Federal audit for a couple of months. There's no knowing when there will be a resolution to the audit issues and how much they will impact us. If things are not resolved sometime soon, the MVWIB may have to borrow money from the City of Lawrence or get a line of credit from a bank or credit union.

Cal asked if the OSCC transition will impact the youth committee and Rafael said no.

Lisa Remington said that Susan mentioned in the last meeting two youth may be attending the SkillsBuild program in Hopkinton. Cristy said that Susan is working on a recruitment flyer. Francisco added that there is no cost to the youth and that he is committing to driving the youth to and from Hopkinton at the end and beginning of each week. They stay in Hopkinton at the site during the week. It offers construction trades training and runs for 6 weeks. At the end of the training outstanding participants may be connected with union jobs. Ideal candidate must be 18 years old or over, possess a high school diploma, and pass a drug test screening.

Cal asked if the committee can visit the facility and Francisco said yes. Rafael added that this is a really good opportunity and that we don't want to send youth who need to be persuaded to attend. They should like to work with their hands and see this as a head start to making good money.

#### **IV. Program Update**

Cristy Gomez gave an update on the Summer YouthWorks program. With the funding received, 229 youth will be served. The MVWIB received 512 completed applications. Of those, 91 were from Haverhill, 374 from Lawrence and 47 from Methuen.

CommCorp mandates that 20% of the funding must be allocated to youth who are homeless, in DCF custody, or in some way court involved. The YouthWorks staff reached out to the partners and were able to get 59 completed applications for the 20% category. Of those, 16 were from Haverhill, 35 from Lawrence and 8 from Methuen. This year we had a DCS referral for a youth that lives in Salem.

Cristy said the lottery took place and the staff are getting ready to carry out the signal success workshops. The BSR's are working very hard in getting the employer worksite agreements completed and signed.

Cal asked what this year's funding was and Cristy answered that it was level funded but due to the increase in minimum wage we had to serve fewer youth. Next year the minimum wage will go up to \$12/hr.

Rafael said the MVWIB submitted a MassHousing proposal for \$35,000 to serve 20 kids. If we get the grant, eligible youth must live in public housing and will work about 15-20 hours a week for 6 weeks. Some of the youth will be in leadership positions making \$13/hr and the others will make \$11/hr. They will complete about 4-5 hours of the signal success workshop.

Cal asked if the youth receive a certificate after completing the required hours of the signal success workshop and Cristy said no but that portfolios are created. Cristy added that youth cannot be job placed without having completed the required hours.

Jackie Ramiro asked if there's anything in place to assist youth who need extra help and Cristy said they are already serving youth with disabilities. Jackie asked if there is any connection with kids at American Training and Cristy said the summer Youthworks applications are distributed to everyone in the community.

Cristy said there is a limit on the number of repeaters served so all the new Haverhill applicants will get in. She concluded by saying that the Connecting Activities STEM is ending June 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

Liz Bennett said GLTS has a new CNA program that just started. GLTS is partnering with LHS to have students come over the second half of the school day to get skills training in different technical areas at GLTS. There are openings in machine tech, metal fabrication and culinary. Students from GLTS will go to LHS as well for after-school enrichment programs.

The Greater Lawrence Technical Institute is starting evening programs. Liz has already received calls from interested parties. Through a Capital Skills Grant, GLTS received \$250,000 to start a new agriculture and landscape construction program. That program will be launched in the fall. GLTS also received a grant for \$94,000 for a biotech program.

Liz said they are having a hard time recruiting for an evening CNC training program they are running in partnership with NECC.

Lisa Remington added that unfortunately many kids don't know what CNC is. She talked about Amp-it-Up and a video that shows what a CNC machinist does. She recommends using it more frequently. Lisa passed out a promotional CNC program flyer and told everyone that there will be an information session happening tonight.

Lowell is also running a quality training control at Middlesex Community College. Lisa passed out various information flyers.

Cal asked Cristy to send emails to the committee to keep them updated about positive Summer YouthWorks outcomes and other events.

**VI. WIOA Update**

No update.

**VII. Other Business**

No other business.

**VIII. Adjourn**

**Having no further business Francisco Brea made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ellen Weinhold. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Corina Ruiz*

Corina Ruiz

Recorder