



GREATER LOWELL WORKFORCE BOARD

107 Merrimack St
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MassHire Greater Lowell Workforce Board
June 16, 2022
Zoom Meeting 8:00-9:15 AM

Call to Order: 8:03 AM

Presiding Officer: Maureen Fitzpatrick, Vice-Chair

Attendees: Kimberly Bodkin, Judy Bower, Chris Brennan, Judy Burke, Kevin Coughlin, Stephanie Cronin, Maureen Fitzpatrick, Karen Frederick, Chris Hayes, Charlene Jancsy, Kevin Kelley, Nancy Ludwig, Danielle McFadden, Elizabeth McKiernan, John Palmieri, John Person, Cynthia Smith, and Amy Wetherbee. **Quorum present.**

Staff: Katy Gentile, Cathy Sturtevant, Abby Seripais, Beatriz Sierra, and Shannon Norton-Calles

I. **Welcome & Introductions**

Assistant/Interim Executive Director Katy Gentile welcomed the group and provided an overview of the agenda. She turned the meeting over to Maureen Fitzpatrick, Vice-Chair due to Chair Ray Wrobel's absence. Newly hired Executive Director Kevin Coughlin introduced himself briefly. Maureen Fitzpatrick welcomed Keven and the thanked everyone for coming

II. **Approval of March 10th, 2022, Minutes**

Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick requested that the board review the March 10th quarterly meeting minutes. With no comments or questions and a quorum present, Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick requested a motion to accept the March 10th, 2022, minutes. Motion made by Charlene Jancsy; seconded by Elizabeth McKiernan. All in favor? Yes. Opposed? No. Vote: Unanimous.

III. **Election of Officers**

Katy Gentile thanked all the members who took the time to submit a nomination. The following board members were nominated for a 2-year term, starting July 1, 2022.

Chair: Ray Wrobel, Align Credit Union

Vice-Chair: Maureen Fitzpatrick, Lowell General Hospital

Second Vice-Chair: Danielle McFadden, Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce

Stephanie Cronin made a motion to accept the Election of Officers seconded by Karen Frederick. All in favor? Yes. Opposed? No. Vote: Unanimous.

IV. **Introduction of newly nominated Board Members – Chris Hayes and Ryan Farley**

Second Vice-Chair Danielle McFadden thanked Assistant Director Katy Gentile for all her hard work during this transition and taking over as the Interim Executive Director. Danielle spoke briefly about the two new board members, Ryan Farley, General Manager, SPINCRAFT and Chris Hayes, Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG). Ryan joined SPINCRAFT MA in

2005. SPINCRAFT offers unique forming capabilities to design and manufacture cost-effective, single-source solutions for customers. Some of the diversified markets they support include aviation, space systems, defense, energy, and medical systems.

Chris Hayes presented an overview of NMCOG. Danielle thanked Ryan and Chris for being part of the board and is looking forward to working with them.

V. WIOA Youth Program Providers Recommendation – Charlene Jancsy

Charlene spoke about the WIOA Youth In-School and Out-of-School Recommendations. Every two years the Board selects youth providers. Charlene went over the 14 WIOA youth elements and explained that 75% of the funds must be spent on out-of-school youth. Four proposals were received for consideration; 3 out-of-school and 1 in-school. Charlene requested a motion to approve the WIOA Youth funding. Motion made by Stephanie Cronin; seconded by Nancy Ludwig. All in favor? Yes Opposed? No. Abstain: Karen Fredrick who receives funding at Youth Build and Elizabeth McKiernan who works with all the partners through Lowell Adult Education.

VI. MassHire Lowell Career Center Report- Shannon Norton

- FY23 Allocations: Shannon provided an update and is hoping to know the amount for FY23 by the end of the day. She is expecting a 19% increase in Adult and Youth programming. She stated that later in the summer the Executive Committee will approve the budget.
- Career Center Updates: Shannon gave an update on upcoming training programs and spoke about the new Upskilling Navigator – Caitlyn Gullage.

Katy Gentile spoke about the training recruitment and what a great job Nancy Gagnon and Amy Veillette do. Lowell does the most recruiting in the State.

Shannon said that over the past two years that more than 200 people have been recruited for trainings.

- MassHire Award nominations: Shannon informed everyone that Katy submitted the MassHire Awards for 2022 to the State.

This year Madeline Colon-Rivera was chosen for respect for her work with the Lowell Housing Authority/MassHire Jobs Plus Program and Daphne Nichols for collaboration for her outstanding work with Lowell Adult Education. Shannon said it has been three years since they started the awards and every year, we always win at least one.

Shannon Norton welcomed Kevin Coughlin to his new role as Executive Director. Kevin Coughlin thanked Shannon and said it was great to be able to join the team and he has the greatest respect for the Board Members.

VII. MassHire Greater Lowell Workforce Board Report – Katy Gentile

Katy gave an update on the 2022 unemployment rates.

April 2022 – Massachusetts: 3.3%

April 2021 – Massachusetts: 6.1%

Greater Lowell: 3.2%

Assistant Director Katy Gentile gave a brief overview of the National Labor Force Participation Rate. The labor force participation rate represents the number of people in the labor force as a percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population. In other words, the participation rate is the percentage of the population that is either working or actively looking for work.

Katy updated the Board on Grant & Resource Development – Updates since March 2022 Meeting:

- Commonwealth Corp: Summer YouthWorks/Year-Round YouthWorks. Summer and year-round subsidized jobs program for 294 low-income youth from Lowell and Dracut, including a C.N.A. Training option: Awarded: \$1,104,624.
- DESE – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: Connecting Activities: Provide Career readiness and work-based learning experiences to students at 8 partner high schools – Pending: \$328,424.
- CDBG – City of Lowell – Youth Work Experience: Enroll additional young people in the fall work experience program beginning in October 2022: Pending: \$20,000.

Board Certification Process: Assistant Director Katy Gentile explained the Certification process. Local Workforce Development Boards must be certified by the Governor and will set policy for the workforce development system within the locally defined area. The MassHire Greater Lowell Workforce Board received a letter from Alice Sweeney, Director of Career Services certifying the Board January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024.

VIII. Adjourn

Assistant Chair Maureen Fitzpatrick thanked Katy, Shannon, Staff and Board Members for all they do. Maureen requested a motion to adjourn. Motion by Stephanie Cronin to adjourn. Seconded by Danielle McFadden. All in Favor: Yes

Meeting Adjourned: 8:52 A.M.

Upcoming Board Meetings: September 22nd
December 8th