



Quarterly Member Meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

8:30AM-10:30AM via Zoom

Present: Colleen Moran (Chair), Alice Murillo, Brian Murray, Carson Burrington, Debra Jacobson, Jennifer Mancía, Rosemary Alexander, Maria Kefallinou Reed Brockman, Nancy Conti, Rick Laferriere, Rafael Mares, Rachael Running, Steven Sullivan, Sue Walsh, Valerie Sutton

Absent: Allen Boyer, Chris Hope, Kambiz Maali, Michael Cosgrove

Guests: Lee-Ann Johnson, Lauren Jones, Matthew Kitsos, Darien Johnson

MINUTES

Agenda Topics	Major Discussion Points	Next Steps (Who, what, by when)
Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleen Moran, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:36AM. 	
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair welcomed Members and guests to the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board’s Quarterly meeting. 	
Review and Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes (VOTE, Roll Call)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair stated that the minutes from the September 13, 2023 MNWB meeting were sent out in the meeting packet. The Chair asked for any questions or comments regarding the minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There being no questions or comments, the Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes. Brian Murray made the motion to approve the minutes and Reed Brockman seconded the motion. ○ Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the September 13, 2023 MNWB Quarterly Meeting were unanimously approved as presented by roll call vote of all Members present at the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes: Alice, Brian, Carson, Colleen, Maria, Nancy, Rachael, Rafael, Reed, Rick, Rosemary, Steven, Susan 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No: N/A ▪ Not Present at time of vote: Allen, Christopher, Debra, Jennifer, Kambiz, Michael, Valerie ▪ Abstain: N/A 	
Review and Approval of FY24 MassHire Metro North Local Plan (VOTE)	<p><i>Jenny Synn, MNWB Sr. Director of Workforce Development & Natalia Salagornik, MNWB Director of Workforce Systems:</i> Reviewed the WIOA Title I Program & WIOA Youth Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reed Brockman asked about the change in numbers regarding Veterans: haven't served as many Veterans in the past year as they hoped so keeping that goal consistent ○ The Chair requested a motion to approve the FY24 MassHire Metro North Local Plan. Alice Murillo made the motion to approve and Reed Brockman seconded the motion. ○ Upon motion duly made and seconded, the FY24 MassHire Metro North Local Plan was unanimously approved as presented by roll call vote of all Members present at the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes: Alice, Brian, Carson, Colleen, Debra, Jennifer, Maria, Nancy, Rachael, Rafael, Reed, Rick, Rosemary, Steven, Susan ▪ No: N/A ▪ Not Present at time of vote: Allen, Christopher, Kambiz, Michael, Valerie ▪ Abstain: N/A 	
Labor Market Data Presentation and Discussion	<p><i>Liana Gracia, MNWB Data Projects Coordinator:</i> Reviewed demographic data in the Metro North <i>Pahneez Hasseli, MNWB Vice President of Strategy and Impact:</i> Reviewed labor force participation rate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation can be found on the MassHire website here: https://masshiremetronorth.org/regionaldata/#lmi 	
Guest Discussion: The Commonwealth's Workforce Development Priorities	<p><i>Lauren Jones, Massachusetts Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Blueprint process: bridge the gaps</i> ○ <i>Reviewing the WIOA plan (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)</i> ○ <i>WIOA State plan highlights: close the workforce skills gap – be intentional with the workforce skills cabinet, recognize health and human services (DTA, department of refugee and immigrants, state and federal funding dedicated to workforce development – scale proven and effective programs, ease for businesses to navigate (cater to companies and jobseekers), awareness of MassHire and the resources that are provided locally</i> ○ <i>MassHire role in migrants coming to MA: 5600 families in shelter in august and now approaching 7500 families in shelter (at capacity). Working with Secretary Walsh and Secretary Augustus to move from shelter to stable housing. Working with individuals for opportunities to work using intake assessments to know status of individuals – languages – skills – degrees: translate that into</i> 	

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	<p><i>a pathway for them to obtain work in MA. Clinic next week to get work authorization onsite and promote MassHire resources for those that need more time. Commonwealth corporation foundation to help solve needs related to workforce development. Working on creating a job training program for newly arrived individuals to get OJT and engage employers who want to engage in this program.</i></p> <p>Individuals who never get work authorization: what will be available for these individuals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Really focused on those that are on track for and can gain the work authorization can do so. Filter the population through assessments to create a smaller population of those that may not be able to acquire work authorization.</i> <p><i>Darien Johnson, Executive Director of the Massachusetts State Workforce Board (Darien.J.Johnson@mass.gov)</i></p> <p>Top priorities: filling vacancies, writing the next state workforce plan, migrants coming into the state (working with community colleges, acclimating individuals into the workspaces, DEI – define and measure this, innovative industries to meet the supply and demand for these positions + include diverse communities, include all of MA areas, talk to MA regional workforce boards and Career Centers.</p>	
MNWB Major Activities Report	<p>Chris Albrizio-Lee reviewed the highlights of the Major Activities Report which was sent to all Members via email in the meeting packet. (Full report in packet)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New MNWB staff member: Jimmy Rao, Manager of Small Business & Entrepreneurship ○ MNWB current open positions: https://masshiremetronorth.org/about/mnwb-careers/ ○ MassHire has been asked to step in and start providing job searches in Emergency shelters for migrants, recently met with folks in Chelsea to discuss what services are needed for multiple individuals within the communities, not just those in the emergency assistance shelters. ○ <i>Has the use of hotels for emergency shelters caused layoffs for the hotels staff?</i> Contracted by the state to use the hotels to provide services, unsure of the effects of the hotel employees. Folks in process of getting work authorization and those that need to start the process (state-wide clinic next week to start this process, including DHS to meet with hundreds of folks). ○ Regional Planning: MNWB to submit a draft to update the blueprint by end of this calendar year ○ STEM – Just wrapped up STEM week in-person events, shoutout to Kate Armstrong, Manager of STEM programs (STEM Network website: https://metronorthstem.wixsite.com/metro-north-stem) <p><i>Lee-Ann Johnson, MNCC Systems Director</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer workshops on site at career centers and some advanced workshops are hybrid. • Partnership with Tech Goes Home to provide workshops and participants receive free laptop 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around Springtime: assess to add more non-computer workshops and see where the demand is (in-person, hybrid, remote). • Digital Navigators (3 total, 1 for each center with different language capabilities). Increase in demand for Arabic language. • Tailored for Success in Woburn as a service to offer to communities. • Biggest challenge is work authorization for migrants in emergency shelters, but also language is going to be a huge barrier – need employers who are willing to hire individuals who do not speak English. Need more ESOL support in our region. Other challenges include: childcare and transportation (possible solution: employer assist with transport from the shelter to place of employment). 		
Procurements Career Center Operator RFP Update	Due to limited time, an update on the Career Center Operator RFP will be emailed to Board members after the meeting. Updates can also be found in the committee updates section of the Board meeting packet.		
Member Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a 		
Other business as may come before the Quarterly MNWB Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a 		
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 A.M. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents used at the November 8, 2023 MNWB Meeting: <table border="1" data-bbox="453 906 1713 1211"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="453 906 1713 1211"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda • Draft September 2023 Meeting Minutes • Major Activities Report • Committee Updates • Grant Summary Chart • Local Annual Plan Attachments • Metro North Demographics PowerPoint </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda • Draft September 2023 Meeting Minutes • Major Activities Report • Committee Updates • Grant Summary Chart • Local Annual Plan Attachments • Metro North Demographics PowerPoint 	
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