



Quarterly Member Meeting

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

8:30AM-10:30AM via Zoom

Present: Colleen Moran (Chair), Alice Murillo, Brian Murray, Carson Burrington, Debra Jacobson, Jennifer Mancia, 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

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 8:34AM. | |
| 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 November 2023 Meeting Minutes (VOTE, Roll Call) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair stated that the minutes from the November 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. Steve Sullivan made the motion to approve the minutes and Reed Brockman seconded the motion. ○ Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the November 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, Debra, Maria, Jennifer, Michael, Nancy, Rachael, Rafael, Reed, Rick, Rosemary, Steven, Susan | |

| Agenda Topics | Major Discussion Points | Next Steps (Who, what, by when) |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No: N/A ▪ Not Present at time of vote: Allen, Christopher, Kambiz, Valerie ▪ Abstain: N/A | |
| Review and Approval of One Stop Career Center Operator Procurement Recommendation | <p>Over the past several months, MNWB has been conducting procurement for 4-year career center charter. Sue Walsh presented the recommendation of the Career Center Procurement Committee. Based on review of proposals, the committee recommended awarding Career Center charter to ABCD. Unanimous vote of committee. Factors included performance, understanding of our region, and understanding of our partnerships. Formal recommendation to the board is to award the charter to ABCD. Committee discussed the rigorous, comprehensive process.</p> <p>Rick asks if there were any other organizations that wanted to apply? Jenny clarifies that 1 other letter of interest was submitted but that organization ultimately did not submit a proposal.</p> <p>Reed makes motion to approve Career Center Procurement Committee’s recommendation to award charter to ABCD. Rosemary seconds.</p> <p>Yes – Colleen, Reed, Carson, Maria, Steve, Sue, Jennifer, Brian, Rosemary, Alice, Rick, Mike, Debra, No: N/A Not present at time of vote: Allen, Christopher, Kambiz, Valerie</p> | |
| Discussion and Brainstorm: Serving Recent Arrivals in Massachusetts’ Emergency Assistance Shelters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MassHire system tasked with providing employment services to new arrivals at EA shelters ○ Statewide effort with directives that come from Governor’s administration ○ In Metro North, there are numerous shelters. Shelter in Everett operated by Eliot Community Human Services/ most established EA partnership to date ○ Locations are constantly changing and evolving. Shelter in Woburn operated by Housing Families. ○ Sue mentions that there is an overflow shelter in Cambridge. ○ A few state initiatives: work authorization, ESOL and a job skills training program ○ MassHire services focused on individuals with work authorization. Not everyone in the shelters have work authorization which the state is assisting with. ○ The primary focus for the MassHire system and the primary outcome we have been asked to track and report is job placements. ○ What connections can we identify that will lead to more job opportunities for this population? ○ What connections can we make as a MassHire region to develop more job opportunities? ○ Report out: ○ Group 1: Steve is working with companies that will take on recent arrivals who want to work in construction field. Discussion about on the job training in ESOL. Need for employers to be aware | |

| Agenda Topics | Major Discussion Points | Next Steps (Who, what, by when) |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| | <p>of this funding availability. How to support and advocate for acceptance of credentials that people have from home countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group 2: Mike and John mentioned connections to property management and throughout the state. Property management opportunities in the hospitality industry. ○ Conversations about ESOL ○ Brian asked Chris to confirm who board members should follow up with as they pursue leads. ○ Group 3: Discussed leveraging existing social networks and the need for English language. Maryanne highlighted that manufacturing companies with many vacancies will hire job-seekers who do not have English proficiency but there needs to be a team who speaks the language and can support the company. ○ Group 4: tax break for companies that hire recent arrivals? Mention of state employer forum, run by Governor. Highlighted companies that have made a difference. Reed’s company is in need of traffic controller, which requires hand movements, rather than English proficiency. Look at specific CommCorp funding for ESOL. Lee-Ann highlights the challenges of employer buy-in about flexibility and thinking outside of the box. | |
| Labor Market Data Presentation and Discussion | <p>Pahneez Hasseli and Liana Gracia presented the Quarterly Labor Market Data report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include hybrid role ○ Include data comparing us from different states ○ LFPR by age group ○ Youth feeling impact of employment – LFPR | |
| 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 members: 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 | |

| Agenda Topics | Major Discussion Points | Next Steps (Who, what, by when) |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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) <i>Lee-Ann Johnson, MNCC Systems Director</i> • 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 • 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). | |
| 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 February 14, 2024 MNWB Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda • Draft November 2023 Meeting Minutes • Major Activities Report • Committee Updates • Grant Summary Chart • Local Labor Market Information Report • Career Center Procurement Committee Recommendation • Overview of EA Shelter Work in Metro North | |