



MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKFORCE BOARD

Planning/ Career Center Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 - 8:00 a.m.
255 Essex Street, 4th Floor
Lawrence, MA 01840

Members Present: Ann Marie Borgesi, Ron Contrado, Andrew Herlihy, Carol Riemer, Bob Wescott

Staff Present: Abel Vargas, Michael Paglia, Corina Ruiz

Other: Linda Rohrer

I. Approval of Minutes of the October 16, 2018 meeting

In the absence of a chairman, Abel asked Bob Wescott to chair the meeting.

A quorum being present, Bob Wescott called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

Abel welcomed the newest committee member, Ann Marie Borgesi, Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative & Human Resources Officer at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center. Ann Marie introduced herself to the committee.

Michael Paglia introduced himself, he's the new Monitoring & Senior Program Manager at the workforce board, taking over Matthias Bohler.

Bob Wescott called for a motion on the minutes of the October 16, 2018 meeting.

Motion by Ron Contrado, seconded by Ann Marie Borgesi, to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2018 meeting as submitted. Motion passed.

II. Performance Summary as of October 31, 2018

Linda Rohrer went over the dashboard. She said that at this time the percentage of plan should be around 33%. Employers hiring from referrals is at 52%. That is due to the new model of industry sector teams, which makes all staff work together. Linda said that to her surprise, the Columbia Gas events did not increase the employer hiring from referrals numbers.

In terms of WIOA, Linda said they are still waiting for youth funds to come in. Abel added that while we await funds, the workforce board has approved using reserve funds for ITA's to not keep customers from starting training.

Bob Wescott asked if the dislocated worker numbers were new and Linda said no. The dislocated workers are mostly carry-ins from Polartec and that's why the number of exiters is low. Bob asked if the Polartec customers that are in training in programs that there are jobs for and Linda said yes. Most of them are in the electronics assembly training.

Linda said that the career center will be outreaching for the adults category. Abel added that historically, this population has been the hardest to serve because of the low income eligibility.

III. Budget Update as of October 31, 2018

Abel said that NECC reimbursements are low because funding hasn't come in. Other regions are experiencing the same. Carol asked if this is unusual and Abel said that although this is new to him, he has been told it's not normal.

Abel said that some members have expressed that the budget update layout is not clear and he has been working with Tracy Myszkowski, the fiscal director, to come up with a different format that is pleasing to the Board.

Bob said that the performance reports are presented by months and that the budget should be consistent with that. Bob commended Tracy on the tremendous job she does, which is ultra-complicated.

IV. Grants Update

Abel said we just received a grant through NAMC to train 15 customers in advanced manufacturing. The Lawrence Community Works also applied for a three year grant, which the workforce board is a partner in, to work on how to engage the business community. More information to come. Abel said he has been in communication with Columbia Gas to see if they can provide money for training. He and Susan will be meeting with Columbia Gas staff next week.

V. Career Center Report

Linda Rohrer presented the ValleyWorks report.

Columbia Gas Explosion Recovery Support

- Working with Tradesmen International (firm contracted to recruit plumbers)
 - Screened 33 individuals (nationally)
 - Referred 27 – on a wait list

Job Fair for Lawrence Public School Parents

- November 1st at Lawrence Public Library; collaboration with LPS Parent Resource Center
- 6-8 employers with bilingual work environments
- Job Fair Prep Workshop; October 24th 5-7 PM at ValleyWorks; 25 parents attended

- 74 job seekers attended – successful event

Evening for Veterans

- November 8th; 5:00 – 7:30 PM
- NECC Haverhill Technology Center
- 6 employers participated: Sig Sauer, GE Aviation, Homeland Security, BAE systems, Social Security Administration, Comcast
- 42 veterans and family members attended

Community Outreach and Recruitment for Training Opportunities

- NAMC Advanced Manufacturing Programs
- Tech Hire NECC Robotics and Automation Program
- WIOA Adult and Youth

Staffing

- DCS BSR retirement (Louanne Griffiths retired) (Michael Joy hired)
- NECC BSR retirement (Chuck Masaitis retired) (Shirley Lusty hired)
- NECC counselor (Marco Ruiz) left for new job (position posted)
- NECC youth counselor (Jessy Abramson) leaving for new position (will post)

MassHire Branding

- Successful Launch Event in Lawrence: November 15th
- Planning smaller event for Haverhill (February)

VII. Other Business

Abel said it is the workforce board's job to keep members informed. He will be meeting with three potential new members and will be reaching out to current members who have not been attended past meetings to gauge their interest in the Board. We need to figure out what conversations should occur and strive for more interactive meetings.

Abel concluded by saying he will be meeting with Lawrence Public Schools Superintendent. The workforce board serves high school student through the Connecting Activities grant and we want to know if we are being effective and get feedback on how we can better leverage resources.

VIII. Adjourn (vote required)

Having no further business Andrew Herlihy made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Ron Contrado, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Corina Ruiz

Recorder