



MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKFORCE BOARD

Planning/Career Center Committee

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

9:00 am

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: 821 4788 3459

Passcode: 102102

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS IN PARTICIPATION:

Andrew Herlihy, Carol Riemer, Frank Surillo

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Frank Amato

STAFF IN PARTICIPATION:

Frank Bonet, Lynda Buote, Corina Ossers, Matt Robert, Abby Seripais

GUESTS IN PARTICIPATION:

Esther Albuquerque, Alicia Appugliese, Juan Belliard, Nelson Button, Vilma Martinez-Dominguez, Eric Nelson

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Frank Surillo welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. This meeting is recorded for meeting minutes purposes only.

II. Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2026, Meeting (vote required)

Chairman Frank Surillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2026, meeting.

Motion by Andrew Herlihy, seconded by Carol Riemer to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2026, meeting. Motion passed.

III. Approval of the MMVWB WIOA Youth Program RFP Review Committee Recommendations (vote required)

Frank Bonet said the Youth RFP Review Committee has reviewed the two proposals received for the WIOA Youth Program RFP and is requesting the Planning/Career Center Committee approval of their

recommendations to not fund the Raíces Cyber Youth Corps In-School Youth Program proposal and to fund the LARE Institute/American Training Inc., Out- of- School Youth Program proposal.

Chairman Surillo asked for a motion to approve the RFP Review Committee's recommendations to not fund the Raíces Cyber Youth Corps In-School Youth Program proposal and to fund the LARE Institute/American Training Inc., Out-of-School Youth Program proposal.

Motion by Andrew Herlihy, seconded by Carol Riemer to approve the RFP Review Committee recommendations to not fund the Raíces Cyber Youth Corps In-School Youth Program proposal and to fund the LARE Institute/American Training Inc., Out-of-School Youth Program proposal. Motion passed.

Discussion: Matt Robert said we executed an RFP for youth programming services, and we presented two possible proposals for consideration. One from LARE Institute/American Training Inc. for an out-of-school youth program and one from Raíces Cyber Youth Corps. for an in-school youth program. The review committee completed their review, and it was determined that Raíces Cyber Youth Corps did not score enough points to be considered for funding and determined the LARE Institute/American Training Inc.'s, proposal as acceptable. See memorandum for additional information.

Andrew said I tried to market this to Haverhill organizations, but I couldn't get anyone to apply. I hope we can make this more user friendly. Is the second application a Lawrence based organization and Frank Bonet said Raíces Cyber Youth Corps is a national organization that does cyber security and AI training. The Massachusetts based sector is the Eastern and Caribbean. It's unfortunate that they didn't score high enough to be considered and Andrew said in general, if there are things we can do to solicit more applications or continue to debrief with organizations that don't get awarded so they can do better and won't be discouraged to apply in the future. I have some organizations that are discouraged from trying this again and I'd like to get beyond that in the future and Frank Bonet said I agree and I have been talking with training providers and potential training providers in the area. Several tell me the package is cumbersome and the information required by the federal government is so much that they don't know what to do or don't have time to create the proposal. When we put out an RFP, we hold a bidder's conference and there is a timeline for questions and answers.

Frank said we did a gaps analysis with the Lawrence Partnership, and I recommended that they help training providers and area businesses with RFP packets. I will see where we are with that.

Andrew said we shouldn't be funding organizations who aren't ready or aren't able to do it but, in the off-season, we should be working with them to bring them along. I think organization will benefit from that and Frank said I will revisit with our team to see how we can compress the packet and education people more before an RFP goes out and Frank Surillo said I agree. There are organizations who want to participate but the RFP packet is a barrier. If we can do more workshops, that would help.

Chairman Surillo asked if there was any further discussion and there was none.

Chairman Surillo asked for a vote to approve the RFP Review Committee's recommendations not to fund Raíces Cyber Youth Corps Program In-School Youth Program and to fund LARE Institute/American Training Inc., Out-of-School Youth Program.

Roll Call Vote to approve the RFP Review Committee's recommendations not to fund Raíces Cyber Youth Corps Program In-School Youth Program and to fund LARE Institute/American Training Inc., Out-of-School Youth Program: Andrew Herlihy – Yes, Carol Riemer – Yes, Frank Surillo – Yes.

The MMVWB Planning/Career Center committee's recommendations will be submitted to the MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board of Directors for a vote on June 23, 2026.

IV. Performance Summary Update

Frank Bonet presented the Labor Exchange Program and WIOA Performance Summary for the MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center as of 5.31.26.

Frank said key themes over the last three months are:

- Employer engagement remains one of the strongest performing areas.
- Training enrollments remain ahead of plan in several categories.
- Employment placements have slowed considerably.
- Negative exits continue to increase across Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs.

Job Seekers Served: 6,121 job seekers were served against an annual goal of 8,800 (70% of plan). Services levels remain consistent with the prior three months, and we are on track to finish near annual projections, but I don't think we'll meet 100% of the plan.

Employer Services: Employer engagement continues to be the Career Center's strongest performance area:

Measure	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
Employers Served	1,309	1,209	92%
New Employers	519	474	91%
Repeat Employers	790	735	93%
Employers Receiving Referrals	69	77	112%

Trend Compared to Previous Three Months

- Employer counts have steadily increased each month.
- Referrals to employers continue to exceed annual goals.
- However, actual hiring from referrals remains below target (84%), suggesting a disconnect between referrals and successful placements.

Employment Outcomes:

Entered Employment: 642 entered employments against a goal of 1,000 (64% of plan).

Average placement wages remain strong:

- Adult: \$25.08/hour
- Dislocated Worker: \$42.86/hour
- Overall Average: \$37.17/hour

Trend Compared to Previous Three Months

- Wage outcomes continue to improve.

WIOA Adult Program

- Participants served: 78 (96% of goal)
- Participants in training: 73 (106% of goal)
- Employment placements: 5 (17% of goal)
- Negative exits: 23 (256% of goal)

WIOA Dislocated Worker Program

- Participants served: 56 (108% of goal)
- Training participation: 60 (94% of goal)
- Employment placements: 9 (33% of goal)

- Negative exits: 16 (229% of goal)

Trend

- Enrollment remains healthy.
- Placement outcomes have lagged despite strong wage attainment.
- Negative exits continue trending upward and require immediate review.

WIOA Youth Program

- Participants served: 83 (76% of goal)
- New enrollments: 64
- Work Experience: 58 participants (153% of goal)
- Youth Group Program: 33 participants (97% of goal)
- ITA enrollments: 25 participants (48% of goal)
- Employment placements: 12 (50% of goal)
- Negative exits: 43 (331% of goal)

Trend

- The Youth program shows mixed results

Strengths

- Work experience participation substantially exceeds plan.
- Youth Group Programs remain on target.

Challenges

- Occupational skills training enrollments remain well below plan.
- Negative exits have increased significantly over the past three months.
- Employment outcomes remain below expectations.

Frank asked if there were questions and Vilma Martinez-Dominguez said I'm going to try to attend these meetings as I'm concerned about the negative exits and retention. Are there any thoughts on conducting a survey with people who are exiting to see what the issues are, and Frank said during our last Workforce Board/Career Center meeting, I suggested we reach out to these individuals. The challenge is that once they leave, sometimes they don't want to answer any questions and Vilma said not just calling, but sending a survey via text with a link to get a good sample and a sense of why they are leaving and Frank said I agree.

Andrew said what defines a negative exit and Corina Ossers said once a job seeker is enrolled in another WIOA program like Adult, Dislocated Worker or Youth, they must get a measurable skills gain like an occupational skills training and are enrolled into and ITA. If they don't finish that program, or they complete the program and don't find employment, our system MOSES, will automatically exit them and they become a negative exit. Alicia Appugliese and I emailed to discuss as this came up in the last meeting and our IT Director is running an exit warning report for the Career Center to review the individual cases and give us an idea of what's going on with negative exits.

Andrew said it can't be people completing training and not finding jobs. And Juan Belliard said I think it would be good for us to meet to discuss the performance of training providers in terms of helping people get jobs. The expectations of the providers don't meet with what we are seeing in real life and Vilma said that's a good point.

Frank Bonet said that's a great point. I'm wondering if we should look at making sure individuals who are going into training are prepared. We currently use Work Keys instead of TABE. We should meet to discuss how to attack from all angles and Vilma said yes, there could be gaps in different areas.

LABOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM and WIOA PERFORMANCE SUMMARY for the MASSHIRE MERRIMACK VALLEY CAREER CENTER LOWER MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA FISCAL YEAR 2026			
PROGRAM ACTIVITY	FY26 ANNUAL PLAN	ACTUAL TO DATE as of 5/31/2026	PERCENTAGE OF PLAN
Job Seekers Served			
1. Total Job Seekers Served	8,800	6,121	70%
a. Job Seekers Unemployed	8,200	5,636	69%
b. Persons with Disabilities	388	624	161%
c. UI Claimants Served	6,112	4,340	71%
d. Veterans Served	213	151	71%
2. Total Entered Employments	1,000	642	64%
Employer Services			
1. Total Employers Served	1,309	1,209	92%
a. New to Career Center	519	474	91%
b. Repeat	790	735	93%
2. Employers Receiving Job Seeker Referrals	69	77	112%
3. Employers Hiring from Referrals	19	16	84%
4. Employers Receiving Enhanced Services		215	
WIOA Adults			
1. Total Participants	81	78	96%
a. Carry-in Participants	25	23	92%
b. New Participants	56	55	98%
2. Total Participants in Training (single count)	69	73	106%
a. Carry-in Participants	25		
b. New Participants	44	48	109%
3. Program Exiters	38	28	74%
a. Enter Employment	29	5	17%
i. Average Hourly Wage at Placement	\$20.00	\$25.08	125%
b. Negative Exits	9	23	256%
WIOA Dislocated Workers			
1. Total Participants	52	56	108%
a. Carry-in Participants	29	24	83%
b. New Participants	23	32	139%
2. Total Participants in Training (single count)	64	60	94%
a. Carry-in Participants	29		
b. New Participants	35	31	89%
3. Program Exiters	34	25	74%
a. Enter Employment	27	9	33%
i. Average Hourly Wage at Placement	\$25.00	\$42.86	171%
b. Negative Exits	7	16	229%
WIOA Youth (Younger & Older)			
1. Total Participants	109	83	76%
a. Carry-in Participants	23	19	83%
b. New Participants	86	64	74%
2. Enrollments by Program Element			
a. Occupational Skills Training (ITA's)	52	25	48%
b. Youth Group Program (In-School & Out-of-School)	34	33	97%
c. Work Experience (ITA & Group Program)	38	58	153%
3. Program Exiters	63	55	87%
a. Enter Employment	24	12	50%
b. Average Hourly Wage at Placement		\$20.02	
c. Entered Post Secondary/Advanced Trng (double count possible)	26	0	0%
d. Negative Exits	13	43	331%
References: FY26 MMVWB Annual Plan; MOSES & Crystal reports			

**MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board
FY 2026 Performance Dashboard Ending May 31, 2026**

FY'26 Annual Budget: \$11,067,709 (as of 5.31.26) LMVWDA **4.5%**
Unemployment: April 2026

Job Seekers Served	Employers Served	Employers Who Hired a Job Seeker Referral
6,121	1,209	16
% Of Plan: 70%	% Of Plan: 92%	% Of Plan: 84%

WIOA Youth	Customer Demographics	WIOA Participants
New participants: 64	Male 3084	Dislocated Worker: 56
Carry-in: 19	Female 2988	% Of Plan: 108%
Total Youth Served: 83	White 3050	
% Of Plan: 76%	Hispanic 2595	Adult: 78
	Other 476	% Of Plan: 96%
	18 and under 90	
	19-21 213	
	22-45 2920	
	46-54 1103	
	55 and over 1795	
	Less than HS 616	
	HS Diploma/GED 2017	
	Some College 690	
	Associate Degree 404	
	Bachelor's Degree 1384	
	Advanced Degree 845	
	Unknown 165	

Total Entered Employment	FY26 WIOA Funds Invested in Training (as of 5.31.26)	FY26 Non-WIOA Funds Invested in Training (as of 5.31.26)
642	\$819,593	\$155,415
% Of Plan: 64%		
Average Hourly Wage: \$37.17		

V. Budget Update

Frank Bonet presented the MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board Budget Report for FY 2026 as of 5.31.26.

Training Investments

Training Funds Invested

Category	Amount
WIOA Training Funds	\$819,593
Non-WIOA Training Funds	\$155,415

Trend

- Training expenditures have increased steadily over the past quarter.
- Enrollment levels indicate strong utilization of training resources.
- The challenge remains converting training completions into employment placements.

Financial Performance

Overall Budget Status

Category	Budget	Expended/Obligated	% Used
Total FY26 Budget	\$11.07M	\$6.43M*	58.1%

*Includes expenditures and accruals.

Major Cost Centers

Area	% Used
Workforce Board Operations	53.4%
Career Center Operator (GLCAC)	61.4%
DCS	56.3%
Customer Training	62.5%

Trend compared with the previous three months:

- Spending remains consistent and within expected ranges.
- Training expenditures continue to be the highest utilization category.
- No major over-expenditure concerns are evident.

Grants Requiring Attention Before June 30

Several grants still have significant balances that should be monitored closely:

Grant	Remaining Balance
Career Center One Stop	\$147,634
WIOA Youth FY25	\$108,497
YouthWorks FY25-26	\$60,296
Connecting Activities	\$54,799
DVOP JVSG	\$54,898
WIOA Adult FY25	\$45,570

Total FY26 grant balances available to spend before June 30 equal approximately - \$585,318.

The final months are usually our stronger months of the year. They have been with prior operators, and we expect the same. We will be reporting the final fiscal year numbers at the next meeting, however, due to July vacations, we may hold the next meeting in August.

Juan Belliard said what is the Career Center One Stop funding and Frank Bonet said the Career Center One-Stop is funding that is specifically for the Career Center and Corina said that is correct, and usually it has more flexibility and Juan, Risobel will be able to better assist you with what exactly you use that pool of funding for. Matt, I don't know if you want to elaborate on that a little more. I think in past years there was a decrease because we received a lot of additional funding through the COVID and ARPA eras and those numbers increased to support the Career Centers and then it drastically decreased throughout the years and Matt said that's correct, it did decrease throughout the years. It's a grant that flows through us and it's not for any program purposes explicitly but it's to cover operations as a whole and Frank said utilities, internet, communications and Matt said it can flow through those through allocations but not as individual charges and Andrew said maybe it's underspent because we don't have a Career Center in Haverhill.



MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board Budget Report for FY 2026

As of 5/31/2026

	Budget	Expenditure	Accrual	Balance	% Used
MMVWB Total	\$3,919,704	\$2,091,452	\$0	\$1,828,252	53.36%
GLCAC Total	\$2,391,930	\$1,467,290	\$215	\$924,424	61.35%
DCS Total	\$1,600,858	\$900,999	\$0	\$699,859	56.28%
Customer Training Total	\$3,155,218	\$1,626,517	\$346,298	\$1,182,403	62.53%
Youth Wages & Stipends		\$953,156	\$0		
Non-Youth Wages & Stipends		\$11,925	\$0		
WIOA Individual Training Account & Group Training		\$591,670	\$227,924		
Non-WIOA Group Training		\$37,041	\$118,374		
On the Job Training		\$0	\$0		
Needs Related Payments		\$0	\$0.00		
Support Services		\$32,726	\$0.00		
Grand Total	\$11,067,709	\$6,086,259	\$346,513	\$4,634,938	58.12%
		\$6,086,259		\$4,634,938	41.88%
		\$0.00			

WIOA Training Total is	\$819,593
NON WIOA Training Total is	\$155,415

GLCAC Expenses are paid through April 2026.

DCS Expenses are through January 2026.



MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board Budget Report for FY 2026

Balance of Funds by Fiscal Year

As of **5/31/2026**

Grants ending in Fiscal Year 2026	Start Date of Grant	End Date of Grant	Balance available to spend <u>by</u> June 30, 2026
Youth Works - FY 25-26	5/15/2025	6/30/2026	\$60,296
Adult Community Learning Services	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$6,759
Senior Community Services	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$0
Mass Commission for Blind	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$1,659
MassAbility	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$1,297
Snap Expansion qtr 1 FY 26	7/1/2025	9/30/2025	\$1,269
DTA Work Program	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$26,898
DESE Career Pathways	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$0
Emergency Assistance Shelter Funding FY25-26	10/1/2024	6/30/2026	\$30,065
ARPA Upskilling Navigator FY 22-26	5/1/2022	6/30/2026	\$0
WCTF Behavioral Health Program FY24-27	1/1/2024	1/31/2026	\$0
Workforce Investment Board	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$5,942
Connecting Activities	7/8/2025	6/30/2026	\$54,799
Helfrich Brothers - FY 25-26	1/14/2025	12/31/2025	\$0
Wagner Peyser 10% FY26	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$16,934
Career Center One Stop	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$147,634
DVOP JVSG	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$54,898
Rapid Response DCS Staff	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$20,746
WIOA Youth FY 25	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$108,497
WIOA Adult FY 25	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$45,570
WIOA Dislocated Worker FY 25	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	\$2,270
		Total	\$585,318
			12.63%
Multiple Years Grants	Start Date of Grant	End Date of Grant	Balance available to spend <u>after</u> June 30, 2026
Youth Works - FY 26-27	4/1/2026	6/30/2027	\$1,022,400
WCTF Healthcare Hub Program FY24-27	1/1/2024	12/31/2026	\$132,891
WCTF ESOL Program FY24-27	10/1/2023	9/30/2026	\$225,680
MTC Advanced Mfg FY26-27	7/1/2025	9/30/2026	\$2,000
Wagner Peyser 90% FY 26-27	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	\$345,353
RESEA CY 25	1/1/2025	9/30/2026	\$427,174
RESEA CY 24	7/1/2024	9/30/2026	\$40,993
WIOA Youth FY 26	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	\$1,052,278
WIOA Adult FY 26	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	\$480,023
WIOA Dislocated Worker FY 26	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	\$320,827
		Total	\$4,049,619
			87.37%

REPORT THRU 5/31/25													
Grant #	GRANT NAME	MASSHIRE MAWS			GLCAC			DO-STATE PARTNER			CUSTOMER TRAINING		
		BUDGET	EXPENSES	BALANCES	BUDGET	EXPENSES	BALANCES	BUDGET	EXPENSES	BALANCES	BUDGET	EXPENSES	BALANCES
4	City Cash Board/Charter/Ordinary Fund	\$0.00		\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
13	Youth Works - FY 26-27	\$605,444.00	\$405,340.00	\$200.00			\$200.00			\$200.00			\$200.00
15	Youth Works FY 25-26	\$605,447.00	\$553,147.13	\$52.00			\$52.00			\$52.00			\$52.00
31	Adult Community Learning Services	\$611.00	\$611.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
32	Senior Community Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
33	Mass Commission for Blind	\$153.00	\$153.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
34	Measability	\$84.00	\$84.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
35	Operation A.E.I.E.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
36	Soap Expansion Op 1 FY 25	\$320.00	\$320.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
37	Soap Expansion Op 2 FY 25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
38	DVA Work Program	\$1,348.00	\$1,348.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
39	DEED Career Pathways	\$16,566.00	\$16,566.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
47	Enrichment Program for Children Funding FY25-26	\$1,477.13	\$1,477.13	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
54	ADPA Upstreaming Navigator FY 25-26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
73	WCTF Workforce Hub Program	\$3,405.80	\$3,405.80	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
74	WCTF ESO Program FY24-27	\$3,415,544.00	\$3,415,544.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
75	WCTF Workforce Hub Program	\$95,000.00	\$95,000.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
81	Workforce Investment Board	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
82	Contracting Activities	\$373,207.00	\$373,207.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
85	Holistic Brothers - FY 25-26	\$9,332.26	\$9,332.26	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
88	MFC Advanced Mktg FY 26-27	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
90	Wagner Project 2024 FY 26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
91	Wagner Project 2024 FY 26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
92	Current Center One Stop	\$27,933.83	\$27,933.83	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
93	DVOP PDS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
94	Revised Response PDS 2024	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
97	RESEA CY 25	\$7,058.00	\$7,058.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
98	RESEA CY 24	\$24,004.00	\$24,004.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
10	WVMA Youth FY 25	\$284,540.18	\$284,540.18	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
22	WVMA Youth FY 26	\$603,744.00	\$603,744.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
30	WVMA Adult FY 25	\$257,895.08	\$257,895.08	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
44	WVMA Adult FY 26	\$241,447.00	\$241,447.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
50	WVMA Educated Worker FY 25	\$154,333.33	\$154,333.33	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
66	WVMA Educated Worker FY 26	\$71,746.00	\$71,746.00	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
Total		\$3,819,704.18	\$3,819,704.18	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00



Fiscal Year 2026 Highlights
As of May 31, 2026

Funding for COL Stand Alone Intensive English FY 20-26 in the amount of \$170,371.06 was returned to the City of Lawrence for reprogramming. MMVWB portion \$29,064.06. Training portion \$141,307.

Grant sunseting resulted in elimination of funding for Operation A.B.L.E. in the amount of \$2,006.95. MMVWB portion \$100. GLCAC portion \$1,906.95

VI. Career Center Report

Alicia Appugliese provided the Career Center Report:

Career Center Report

Planning Committee Meeting June 16, 2026

Business Services (as of 10 JUN 2026):

Past Events

- 5/14/26 Manufacturing Mini Job Fair (@MVCC) – 26 Job Seekers Attended
- 5/27/26 Whole Foods Recruitment (@MVCC) – 32 Job Seekers Attended
- 6/2/26 BrightBridge Credit Union Info Session (Virtual) – 12 Job Seekers Attended
- 6/3/26 MassCareers Info Session (Virtual) – 14 Job Seekers Attended
- 6/8/27 NAMC Student Job Fair – Welding & HVAC @ GLTS) – 30+ Students Attended
- 6/9/26 Rockland Trust Info Session (Virtual) – 28 Job Seekers Attended
- 6/9/26 Early Childhood Apprenticeship Recruitment (@MVCC) – 18 Job Seekers Attended

Upcoming Events FY 27:

- 7/1/27 USPS Recruitment (@MVCC)
- 7/7/26 Home Instead Recruitment (@MVCC)
- 7/8/27 Essex Technical School Bus Driver Info Session (Virtual)
- 7/9/27 Monogram Food Recruitment (@MVCC)
- 7/15/27 Mass PCA Info Session (Virtual)
- 7/22/27 MassHire Merrimack Valley Summer Job Fair (via Premier Virtual platform)
 - 6/24 & 7/15 – Job Seeker Workshop – “Preparing for Virtual Job Fairs”
 - 7/7 & 7/8 – Employer Training for Premier Virtual
- Creating a pipeline for customers interested in training- keeping them engaged until FY27 funds become available.
- Starting cohorts for our WPP customers- focusing on Job Search, Interviewing Skills and Resume Creation.
- June 23rd we will be attending the Essex County Pre-release and Reentry Graduation from the plumbing program.
- Met with Frank Amato to identify appropriate job placements for the graduates of the plumbing program.

- We are working with the Public Schools to assist in administering the work keys testing (new requirement for all paraprofessionals by 6/30/26).

Frank Surillo said yes, I am aware of that requirement. When I worked for Lawrence Public Schools, I created a paraeducator training program. Before Lawrence, the closest center was in Worcester. Now that we have a test center in Lawrence, feeding the program is something we should be looking at and Alicia said yes and I think WorkKeys is helpful in a sense. We can give them subject practice materials and Juan said this is different from the paraprofessional test, it's like the college ACT at a different level. There aren't many testing sites and as Alicia said, the public schools reached out to the Career Center, and we will make 10 seats available for those who need it. We start testing next week.

Frank Surillo said another thing to look at is a lot of people come with college degrees from their countries and we can pre-screen to see if they can bypass taking the paraeducator test with their college degrees from their countries or from here. Juan said for WIOA training, if you have a college degree in the U.S., you don't need to test. If they have a degree from outside the U.S., they have to test.

Eric Nelson said we're doing well with individual recruitment events. We've shifted our model from bigger-scale job fairs to individual events and it's working out well, as you can see the numbers coming in are a lot better. We do have a large-scale virtual job fair via Premier coming in July.

Andrew said it's great to see a Monogram recruitment event coming up. We heard they were coming back. This is good information. Thank you.

Frank asked if there were any questions and there were none.

VII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated

Frank Bonet said the Career Center Open House was held last week and Vilma said the event was picked up by the Eagle Tribune. It was amazing and we had a great turnout. Speakers included Frank, me, Beth Goguen, Mayor DePeña, and Alicia. Attendees included representatives from the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, Department of Transitional Assistance, two MMVWB Board members, two GLCAC board members and Marina Acosta, Regional Director for Senator Payano. We had great social media exposure, and you can see it on our website. Thank you to the staff who help organize this event.

Frank said we received the board certification from DCS. We are not in compliance with small business and business members on our board. We need five additional members to continue to be certified. I will be reaching out this week to some businesses. If you have recommendations for businesses in Haverhill, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, etc., please let me know. Vilma said contact LeadHumano Collective in North Andover, Arka, and JBS and Frank said yes and the Merrimack Valley Chamber is going to reach out and see if they can open some doors for us.

VIII. Adjourn (vote required)

Having no further business, Chairman Frank Surillo called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Andrew Herlihy, seconded by Carol Riemer to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Buote

Recorder

Exhibits Used:

Memorandum – 6.11.26 WIOA Youth Program Request for Proposals

Labor Exchange Program and WIOA Performance Summary for the MHMVCC as of 5.31.26

MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board Budget Report for FY 2026 as of 5.31.26

MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center Report 6.16.26