



MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKFORCE BOARD

Planning/ Career Center Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

8:00 a.m.

255 Essex Street, 4th Floor
Lawrence, MA 01840

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

Staff Present: Abel Vargas, Susan Almono, Corina

Other: Linda Rohrer

I. Approval of Minutes of the September 5, 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 8:10 a.m. and then called for a motion on the minutes of the September 5, 2018 meeting.

Motion by Ron Contrado, seconded by Andrew Herlihy, to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2018 meeting as submitted. Motion passed.

II. Performance Summary as of September 31, 2018

Linda said that at this time the percentage of plan should be around 25%. Most of the categories are except entered employments which is at 15%. That number is higher but not reflected in MOSES yet. Linda added that the MOSES system is still problematic and that although they changed platform to Amazon WorkSpace, a few problems still exist.

Employers services is doing well, and Linda expects that to boost because of the sector teams focus. Linda said they have developed metrics for the industry sector teams but haven't been able to set them up because of the ongoing reports issue. Susan asked if the numbers have been impacted by the gas crisis and Linda said yes although the recruitment they had for Columbia Gas would not be reflected in this report since it happened in October.

Abel gave a brief update on the Columbia Gas crisis and the role he has played in assisting the business community. He also mentioned that Secretary Acosta helped workers by approving unemployment insurance benefits to this impacted.

Linda said that the WIOA funding is not available, although the workforce board has been supportive in making funding available for customers ready for training. Abel added that we are

getting close to receiving some funding and it's not only this region being affected. Linda said that is why the enrollment numbers for the WIOA programs are low.

III. Budget Update as of September 31, 2018

There were no questions on the budget update.

IV. Grants Update

Susan Almono presented the Grants update report.

To view the grant update chart, click here [Grant Activity Update October 10, 2018](#).

V. Career Center Report

Linda Rohrer presented the ValleyWorks report.

Columbia Gas Explosion Recovery Support

- Recruitment for NiSource/Columbia Gas on October 1st for linguists and customer care advisors
 - 128 applicants
- Recruitment for Riley Brothers on September 28th and October 11th for laborers and CDL B drivers
 - 17 applicants
- Recruitment for Allied Universal on October 11th for security personnel
 - 42 applicants
- Over \$2000 generated from career center staff across the state donated directly to the ECCF/Lawrence Emergency Fund

Advanced Manufacturing Quality Training – Recruitment Continues

- Next cycle: October 29th – December 6th (6 weeks); Monday - Thursday; 9 AM - 2 PM
- At NECC Haverhill
- Eligibility: ages 17 – 29 years old

Workforce Development Grant Seminar for Businesses

- October 12th at NECC Technology Center
- 18 businesses registered; 6 showed
- Attending businesses very satisfied with information gained

Staff Training

- Training session on October 12th by MA Rehabilitation Commission providing information to career center staff on working with individuals living with a disability

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

MassHire Branding

- Launch Event Date: November 15th
- Time: 10 AM – 11:30 AM
- Location 255 Essex Street, Lawrence
- Secretary Acosta, Mayor Rivera, Board Chair Yopez, and NECC President Glenn to speak
- Employer Award – TBD
- Refreshments, music, decorations, and enthusiastic staff!
- Website, signage, all materials revised to reflect the brand

VII. Other Business - Merrimack Valley Employer Facing Coalition

Mr. Vargas led a conversation on coordinated effort with other agencies in the City of Lawrence around enhanced employer engagement. He noted there are a number of different groups in the Valley interfacing with employers. Abel suggested there would be significant value added if we could find a way to coordinate that work so that employers are clearer on their interactions with community organizations. The role of the Workforce Board would be one of convener and lead interface agency. The committee was generally supportive but worried about staff capacity. A more extensive conversation with a broader group will take place at the MVWB Annual meeting, where Stephon Michon of FutureWorks will be presenting the idea to the board.

VIII. Adjourn (vote required)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Corina Ruiz

Recorder