

Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting

March 26, 2025

The Century House, Acushnet, MA

Meeting Minutes

Attendance : Duarte Silva, Nelson Abreau, Jean Breault, David Cabral, Stephanie Chase, Helena DaSilva Hughes, Dr. Laura Douglas, John Fernandes, Shannon Finning, Margarita Graham, Bernice Jensen, Haskell Kennedy III, Pam Kuechler, Lisa Lemieux, Bonnie Mello, Stephen Merrill, Christopher Mittell, Charles Quinn, Ed Washburn, Michael Watson, Dr. Steven White, Corinn Williams, Michael Williams

CC Staff: Rodney Solomon, Fran Grey, Elizete Perry,

Workforce Board Staff: Lynn Connor, Jacqueline Sylvia, Justin Grotta, Christina Baptiste, Deven Robitaille, Lindsey Rocha, Angie Furey, Debbie Hartman, Jim Oliveira, Jandira DaSilva, Michael Santos and Wil Edmond

Welcome and Meeting called to order– Duarte opened the meeting at 5:00 PM followed with a roll call vote motion to approve minutes made by David Cabral and seconded by Margarita Graham all in favor.

Special Introductions:

Duarte Silva started off with the exit of David Slutz as Chair and himself made an Interim Chair through June 2025 vote to be made at next meeting to appoint new Chair of the Board. All in favor of Duarte becoming the Interim Chair until June.

Updates: Duarte Silva

Touched briefly upon Lawsuit filed against the board. An Attorney has been hired and Indemnification Insurance in place for all Board Members and anyone named in the Lawsuit. The claimant has since resigned but the lawsuit is still going forward. A Contractor has been hired for 90 days to cover the financial areas and walk us through the grant requirements. Duarte has been speaking with the Mayor's Office with everything going on with the organization and they trust that there are a lot of good people on the Board, and they will continue to deliver to the community.

Introduction: Duarte introduced Wil Edmond as new Deputy Executive Director. Mike Santos started the meeting with reassurance that we are moving forward on course. All grants pushing forward include a new Veterans grant and recovery addition grant. He mentioned that he has prepared an Executive Director summary and wants all to review and reach out to him with any questions and please reach out. New members of the board appointed and approved by the Mayor's office, all in favor.

CareerCenter: Rodney/Fran – Fran mentioned that the Career Center is up by 9 percent over last year. The counseling is down by 4% from last year but they are waiting on Opioid Grant to cover it. Resource room up from last year. URI online program changing so they are anticipating increase in those numbers. Training up 5% from last year. CC doing very well in reaching all goals from last year and all numbers are up. Rodney hit upon enrollment goal met for Adult and Dislocated program. They are also close to reaching the training goal and on course to reach that goal. They are on track to reach employment goals for Adult and Dislocated

workers. He mentioned Southcoast MBTA introduction event and a lot of qualified candidates attended including Senator Montigney. It was a large and successful event. Most of MBTA opportunities are located in Boston but with opening of the New Bedford line it will be able to bring candidates to and from locations. Mike mentioned that Senator expects that the jobs come to New Bedford. Duarte asked for any new business and mentioned that improvements expected for new presentations

Motion to adjourn by Dave Cabral and seconded by Mike O’Sullivan, all were in favor. Meeting ends at 5:33 PM.

Upcoming Meeting

- **FY26 Board of Directors Meeting**
 - **September 24, 2025 at 8:30 AM**
 - Location TBD**