

Executive Committee Minutes of Thursday, December 5, 2019

Attendance: M. Tavares, R. Melbourne, R. Kidder, J. Fernandes, J. Daniels, L. Lemieux, H. D. Hughes

Absent: D. Slutz, C. Taber, J. Pelletier

Staff: J. Oliveira, D. J. Ramos, J. Rodrigues, A. McLaughlin, D. Meggison, J. Sylvia

Guests: D. Hurley, E. Perry, B. Costa

Greetings and Call to Order by Michael Tavares, Vice Chair – 12:05

Introductions / Announcements

- Congratulations to Anne Broholm and Jose Bahena for the 2019 Massachusetts Manufacturers of the Year award.
- Congratulations to the new FY20 EWDJT grantees!
See below for the announcement from EPA. New Bedford is 1 of the 26 awards. Workforce board staff partnered with the city's Michele Paul, Director of Resilience & Environmental Stewardship, in preparation of submission of the grant. Grant award is \$200,000.
 - EPA is excited to announce that today we are selecting approximately \$5.1 million in Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grants to 26 communities across the country to recruit, train, and place unemployed and underemployed individuals with the skills needed to secure long-term employment in the environmental field. <<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicants-selected-fy20-environmental-workforce-development-and-job-training-grants>>
- The Workforce Board staff responded to an RFP and secured a YouthWorks Year Round Planning grant for \$15,000 focused on the Maritime Industry. Recent Survey prepared by UMass students under the direction of our Consultant, Strategy Matters sent to various maritime partners – see attached survey. Discussions and meetings underway including a Project Advisory Group made up of several schools, employers and organizations.
- \$9,000 Partner Share for Regional Planning FY20. GNB is planning for a Regional IT Forum in late winter/early spring.
- \$20,000 from New Bedford Public Schools to provide enhanced Connecting Activities services for juniors and seniors.
- \$10,000 from Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to lead regional Educational Institution grantees in a Community of Practice partnership during FY20.

Consent Agenda (Votes)

- September minutes for approval motion to approve R. Kidder, seconded by L. Lemieux
- Treasurer's Report motion for approval
– motion to approve R. Kidder, seconded by J. Fernandes
- Jim Oliveira reviewed the need to transfer funds to address security issues at the MCC. State is requesting we use the dislocated worker hurricane funds however, already the monies have already been spent. A suggestion from the State is that we use funds from our discretionary reserves until able to replace to pay for this item. (Includes a Security Company invoice of \$10,000 as well costs for the security guard going forward and quote with specifications for the video surveillance)
– motion to approve with stipulation that total cost does not exceed \$40,000 for both the security guard and surveillance cameras made by R. Kidder, seconded by L. Lemieux
- Draft audit report review held until next meeting

Report outs

- Executive Director – Jim Oliveira
 - Jim highlighted current grant activity including robotic/photonics tech initiatives, opioid, Perkins school, NBHS with the \$1.5 million maritime industry grant
- Performance & Oversight – Ron Melbourne
 - Ron presented the newly revised Career Center performance report that the committee had been working on and stated that the new version was spectacular because he now can understand it.
- Business Development – Rick Kidder
 - Rick thanked Sid Wainer for their hosting the last Business Development meeting and complimented their hospitality. He announced that new employers to the Career center were up 18% and they were getting very strong referrals and attributed it to the Career Center's outreach activities. Rick noted that we had received recognition for having one of the best websites in the state. Jim Oliveira clarified the recognition came from IDEAS, who is the company that was hired to build all of the MassHire WB and CC websites.
- Youth Committee – Jeff Pelletier
 - YouthBuild SE Cybersecurity has an opportunity to see a program for 18 of 22 active and ongoing for 12-16 weeks and then 2 more courses.
- MassHire Career Center – James Daniel
 - James reported that they have been working on shortening the number of visits to the Career Center required for ITAs making things more efficient.

Other Input:

- Ron Melbourne brought up the subject of mental health issues and the group discussed the overall issues in relation to barriers to employment and training needs. Ron suggested a speaker or some other quality presentation be considered. Helena DaSilva Hughes noted that the issue required a lot of hand holding and was at epidemic proportions. John Fernandes agreed there was a need for training of for the staff and when they should call for help. Also that the grant components should include things like transportation, food along with community effort and legislature. Jim Oliveira mentioned creating a working group to address the issue and meet a couple of times to come up with something for the third quarter to move forward with the Career Center.

Other Business

- Next Ex-Comm meeting held at the Quest Center @ noon – please save the date on your calendars
 - Thursday January 23, 2020

Adjourned at 1:05