

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**September 18, 2024**  
**25 Elm Street, Suite 2023 with Zoom option**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:** David Slutz, Margarita Graham, Jeffrey Pelletier, Duarte Sylvia, Yvonne Tobey, Lisa Lemieux, John Fernandes, Carl Taber,

**CC Staff:** Rodney Solomon, Fran Grey,

**Workforce Board Staff:** Abbey Despres, Lynn Connor, Jacqueline Sylvia, Justin Grota

**Meeting called to order** – David Slutz - Remote meeting guidelines were read followed by a roll call to open the meeting at 12:00 PM.

**Review of August 21, 2024, Minutes -- Chair**

Motion to approve accepted.

**Special Recommendation:**

Recommendation to the Executive Committee to approve the appointment of Stephanie Chase as a Board Member Director to complete the remainder of Jennifer Patnaude's term on the Board of Directors to replace Jennifer Patnaude and serving the remainder of her term. Motion to recommend her to the Board made by Jeffrey Pelletier and seconded by John Fernandes, all in favor, motion carried.

**Workforce Reports/Discussion** – Abbey Despres

Workforce Board has absorbed the Youth Program as of May 20<sup>th</sup>. With a 96 % rate which is an all time high. We are working with PACE to set up a program on construction credentials. A para-professional grant was rewarded. CNA cohort starting in October which is partnered with New Bedford High School and Fairhaven High School. They are waiting on response of VA grant which was submitted in August. It is a 5 year grant which provided upscale navigator working with Veterans. They are hoping to have response in the next few months. South Coast Wind received their grant from MA & RI for their power agreement and they are looking to start in early January/February. Pension changes were address and all employees have been made aware of this. Abbey was contacted by the State of MA. They decided this year to do an audit of 457B Smart Plan as it for State of MA government entities only. MA Hire is not a government entity so they are disallowed. An appeal has been filed. There are different available are to start a 401K plan which takes 2 months. Employee would get a check to roll-over with a 10% early withdrawal fee or apply to IRS for a hold harmless but this would take 9 to 18 months to receive the letter from the IRS. In the meantime, all accounts will be frozen. John Fernandes indicates that they will have to vote on a new retirement account.

**Youth Program** – Justin Grota

Justin spoke on youth Programming updates. Youth presentations showing high level of updates on grants. This years was met with challenges for the youth team as the funder did away with their data base and didn't have an electronic application system. They were able to work with Rodney and track down applicants – 800 applicants and 40 businesses participate in the program. This provides for a good base for next year. The active youth a

activity shows 59 youths in the pipeline with 6 different vendors in motion with good standing. Looking for a December benchmark when everyone should have their recruitment.

**Career Center Reports/Discussion-** Rodney Solomon/Fran Grey

There is a strong pipeline for adult workers that they are planning to serve in this fiscal year. They currently have 164 which is more than 86 that were carried over from last year, resulting in a strong percentage. Dislocated workers had a less strong pipeline than last fiscal year. 58 people have already completed training being way over last year. John and Yvonne mentioned possibility of marketing in our zip code area since branding is slow going. Rodney said the problem is that customers are getting lost and they are trying to coordinate a new program to track customers. Jacquie mentioned trying social media posts and a more customized post. Fran mentioned that it is early in the fiscal year comparing numbers from last year. On the employers side, unemployment jumped roughly 4.6% which is a little concerning. The usage of the resource room is down from last year. Since it is located downstairs if customers already have a login and password, they are not going upstairs to sign in. If the room was upstairs it will improve the numbers. He also mentioned the Veteran's Career Fair coming up at Rachel's Lakeside on October 29, 2024. John brought up that companies are getting funding and able to train without money on their part. They are trying to bridge the language gap. There are people from out of the country that come here with high credentials from their hometown and everyone should not assume that they don't have skills if they don't speak English. Tests or interviews should be done proving they have credentials through paper work through their home country.

**Motion to adjourn** made by David Slutz, all in favor, The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- **FY25 Ex Comm Meeting**
  - December 11, 2024