

# WIOA Youth Workgroup

January 29<sup>th</sup>

## Meeting Notes

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**Members in Attendance:** *Tricia Lucier (Employment and Training Resources), Christine Abramowitz (Hampden REB), Larry Smith (Office of Workforce Development), Kamaria Moore (Department of Transitional Assistance), Jonathan Hasak (Metro North REB), Mary Giordano (ACLS), David Hoff (Institute for Community Inclusion), John Olivera (MCB), Sacha Stadhard (Department of Career Services), Shailah Stuart (DESE), Mary Sarris (North Shore WIB), John Niles (Commonwealth Corporation), Susan Lange (Commonwealth Corporation)*

**Non-Members in Attendance:** *Susan Quinones (MWPA), Cassie White (OWD)*

### Update on WIOA Implementation

#### Draft State Plan and MOU

- A draft of the State Plan and state level MOU was submitted to the Governor on November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The State Plan and State Level MOU is available for Comment and Review. The State Plan still in draft form and final plan is not due until April 1, 2016.
- There will be a series of WIOA public meetings and there is an online process to submit comments for the State Plan.

#### Regional Planning Process

- Regional Assignments have been proposed – WIOA requires regional planning for the purpose to coordinate resource among multiple boards in a region.
- 7 regions have been proposed and they align with the economic development regions of the Massachusetts Office of Business Development.
- A Mass Workforce issuance was issued describing the regional designation process. For more information on this go to Mass Workforce Issuance 100 DCS 03.103

#### Career Center Competitive Selection Process

- Career Centers will now need to be competitively procured every 4 years – selected operator must be in place beginning July 2017.
- The Career Center standards workgroup has developed standards in which the Boards will use in the selection process.
- Eligible applicants include:
  - Single career center or a consortium career center partners
  - Local Boards with the approval of a CEO and Governor
  - Other organizations that are capable of carrying out career center duties
  - Non-traditional secondary school like career and technical vocation schools

- A Career Center Standards subgroup was created to develop guidance and standards for workforce boards when issuing their local RFP's for the competitive procurement process. The Career Center Standards subgroup will go into Executive Session to avoid conflict of interests due to some members of the group being potential applicants in the career center competitiveness selection process.
- It was noted that the WIOA core partners have been included on all of the workgroups and will also be included in the competitive selection review process.

### WIOA National Convening

- A delegation from Massachusetts consisting of WIOA Core partners and workforce partners went to D.C. for the three day conference (January 26-28).
- The theme was on partnerships and leveraging resources. State teams were given an opportunity to discuss strategies and ideas for WIOA implementation.
- Sacha sat on a panel titled "Reinventing Services for Youth" and discussed the work of the Youth Workgroup as well as the State Level MOU which outlines a collaborative vision of partnerships.
- Guest speakers included:
  - Acting Education Secretary John King
  - Bill Strickland, President-CEO of Manchester Bidwell Corporation
  - US Labor Secretary Thomas Perez
- For information on the WIOA National Convening visit: <https://wioa.workforce3one.org/>

### **Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship**

- Mary Sarris gave an overview of how training and apprenticeship is incorporated into the delivery of services in the North Shore.
- The Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium region has about 2000 manufacturing companies. Small companies make up the majority of the consortium.
- Established training programs with community college and vocational technical schools have been essential to success.
- Apprenticeships are for individuals that are at least 18 years old. WIOA Youth 18-24 are age appropriate for apprenticeships.
- Massachusetts was recently awarded a 3M apprenticeship grant to develop apprenticeships across the state. The grant will pay for related instruction as part of the academic component of the apprenticeship program.
- Apprenticeships can range from 1 – 4 years and have a structured work process that must be followed. The apprentice is employed by the company and has to follow their hiring practices which may also include CORI checks.
- WIOA funded training providers of related instruction need to be registered on the eligible training provider list.
- Pre-apprenticeship would be appropriate for individuals who do not yet have a secondary credential.
- Through the North Shore Career Centers individuals learn about available training options and make informed choices about the training they pursue.

- Pre-apprenticeship programs that provide a stipend help individuals stay engaged in the program.
- Companies who provide apprenticeships must be registered with the MA Division of Apprenticeship Standards.
- Apprenticeship model is a good pathway to offer in-school youth who are nearing secondary school completion and need to engage in next steps.
- The Information and Technology field is an industry sector that has a lot of potential for apprenticeship.
- Pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship is a model that will also work for individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities can participate in training and vocational rehabilitation can support the individuals with access to special technology or alternative teaching techniques needed to be successful in the program.
- On-the-Job Training is also an allowable model under work experience and should be explored as a program model to serve older youth.
- The value added for registering a pre-apprenticeship program should be understood.

### **Youth Procurement Guidance**

- Guidance is intended for Board to use when developing their procurement process for youth services.
- The procurement guidance should contain language that outlines the expectation for the design and the delivery of service and describe ways in which partnerships and collaborations with the core partners and other workforce partners can be aligned to provide service for youth ISY and OSY.
- Language should be included to ensure that program services are accessible to individuals with disabilities, which would include facilities being ADA compliant as well as Board, Framework Service Providers having access to organizations that can provide assistive technology or materials in alternative formats.
- More clarity is needed on the roles of the Board, Framework Services Provider, and the Procured Service Providers.
- Make more about the roles of the Board, Framework Service Provider, and Service Provider
- The guidance should also incorporate collaboration with state workforce partners such as the Department of Transitional Services.
- Language on Youth Committees should be revised as TEGl incorporates proposed language about Youth Standing Committees
- Youth Procurement Guidance will be updated in February, and sent out for review and comment in March, and then issued in April.

### **Next Meeting**

At the next meeting we will discuss the grant recipients of the joint MRC/MCB RFR to provide pre-employment transitional services. We will review updates to the Youth Service Procurement Guidance. We will also discuss the WIOA Youth forum.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> the meeting location is TBA.