

# **Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities Disability Employment Workforce Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

Date of meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Start time: 12:00pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members Participating Remotely	
1	Kathy Petkauskos – Director, Work Without Limits at UMass Chan Medical School
2	Gyasi Burks-Abbot – Self Advocate Faculty, LEND Program, Boston Children's Hospital
Members Not Present	
	Oz Mondejar
	Representative Mathew Muratore
	Carl Richardson

## **Welcome, Roll Calls, and Introductions**

- Chair Kathy Petkauskos opened the meeting with introductions of the other subcommittee members.
- Members reviewed the charge of the disability employment workforce subcommittee: This subcommittee will collect data and analyze initiatives that increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in private employment and state government
- Members discussed a plan to meet during the months that the full Commission does not meet. A Doodle poll will be sent by staff to schedule a December meeting.

## **Discussion of FY23 Subcommittee Goals**

- Members discussed *potential* goals for FY23:
  - Research existing resources that are available to help individuals with disabilities gain meaningful employment and find where that data is kept.
  - Research the state as a model employer for employing individuals with disabilities.
  - Incentivize family support centers to hire more individuals with disabilities and research grant programs to offset the costs of accommodations.
  - Identify existing barriers to increasing employment opportunities at the state level, especially with regards to benefits.
    - Examples include Commonwealth Corporation's Learn to Earn initiatives.
  - In an effort to avoid duplication of effort and increase collaboration, connect with organizations and initiatives in this space that have similar missions and goals.
    - Examples include the Department of Mental Health's Statewide Mental Health Planning Council Employment Subcommittee; the Autism Commission (ages 18-22 transitional group subcommittee); and the Joint

Committee on Labor Force Development chaired by Representative Josh Cutler and Senator Pat Jehlen.

- o Research existing models, including Clubhouses, internships and apprenticeships, Project SEARCH, Regional Employment Collaboratives, State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), American Job Centers (in MA they are called MassHire), Work Without Limits, Independent Living Centers (ILCs), and Social Security's Ticket to Work Employment Networks (ENs) and Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) benefit counseling programs.
- o Research employer-led initiatives, such as Dell and Microsoft.
- o Review the Workability Subcommittee Report published by Rep Cutler (link: <https://www.scribd.com/document/489664834/WorkAbility-Final-Report>).
- o Create an index of relevant acronyms for commissioners' and public access.