



**MassHire State Workforce Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 20th, 2024**  
**9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

In Person Meeting  
Bunker Hill Community College  
250 Rutherford Ave  
Boston, MA 02129

**Meeting Minutes**

***Members Present:***

*James Cassetta, Jim Chilton, Maria Ferreira-Bedard, Rainer Gawlick, Lauren Jones, Robert LePage, Randall Lyons, Juliette Mayers, Joanne Pokaski, Rad Nova, Pam Eddinger, Tonja Mettlach, Sherry Dong, Juan Vega, Maddrey Goode, Juliette Mayers, Rainer Gawlick, Meghan Driscoll.*

***Members Absent:***

*Jesse Brown, Pamela Everhart, Warren Pepicelli, Sherri Pitcher, Kate Walsh, Ray Wrobel, Anne Broholm, John Mann, Jessyca Feliciano, Sherry Dong, Toni Wolf, Pam Eddinger, Radhames Nova, Joan Phillips, Liz Skidmore, Jessyca Feliciano, Rep Kip Diggs, Senator Pat Jehlen, Sherri Pitcher, Nicole Obi.*

***Guests and Staff***

*Alysia Ordway, Cole Angley, Sacha Stachard, Steve Prudent, Kristen Mckenna, Molly Jacobson,*

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Joanne Pokaski** called the meeting to order, reviewed the agenda, and welcomed the board and esteemed guests to Bunker Hill Community College. Joanne thanked President Pam Eddinger of Bunker Hill Community College and her staff for hosting the Massachusetts State Workforce Board. Joanne then asked board members and speakers to introduce themselves. Darien Johnson gave a recap of the discussion Secretary Jones and Chair Pokaski convened with the State Board and Ken Brown covering Employer engagement strategies around Migrants. Darien introduced both the Performance and Workforce System Modernization Subcommittees and will be finalizing the work of these subgroups in the coming weeks.

**Previous Meeting Minutes Approval**

**Joanne Pokaski** announced that a quorum of the board was not present, therefore a vote to approve meeting minutes could not take place.

## **Welcome to Bunker Hill Community College:**

Pam Eddinger, President of Bunker Hill Community College, provided welcome remarks and gave an overview of the programs and services that BHCC is offering throughout the Greater Boston area.

## **State Workforce Plan: Talent Strategies Youth:**

**Steve Prudent, Director of High School Partnerships and Pathways:** Provided an overview of Early College and Vocational Partnerships at Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC). Steve discussed how Bunker Hill currently has 5 early college designations, serving over 400 students throughout the Greater Boston area during 2023-2024. Steve mentioned that BHCC services students from various Vocational High Schools and CTE programs as well but has a more formal partnership with Madison Park Vocational High School, Medford High School, and Medford Vocational Technical High School. The areas in which most students take college level courses, supported by the Federal Perkins grant related to the vocational track at their high schools, are in the fields of Biotechnology, Business Technology, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, and Health Assisting. Steve also invited Taneka DeGrace, Director of RoxMAPP Early College and Dual Enrollment at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, and both Arlin Yanes and Alanna Anderson, who are graduating Seniors at Madison Park.

**Taneka DeGrace:** Discussed how Madison Park Vocational High School has been designated with Bunker Hill Community College since 2019. She stated that it is the only Boston Public School that graduates high schoolers with an associate degree. She also stated that college professors will come and teach the students and help prepare them as they are deciding what colleges/ majors they will be choosing.

**Arlin Yanes/ Alanna Anderson:** Discussed how grateful they both were for this program and how it shaped their interests and focus as they prepare to attend college in the fall. Arlin stated an interest in becoming a lawyer and Alanna wants to become a dentist.

## **Commonwealth Corporation:**

**Molly Jacobson:** Gave a quick overview of Commonwealth Corporation (Comm Corp) and how CommCorp focuses on workforce development for youth and adults in Massachusetts, with a special focus on underserved and unemployed/underemployed individuals. Molly mentioned how Commonwealth Corporation's grant programs serve a variety of industries such as life sciences, manufacturing, construction, and healthcare. Molly passed it over to Aadil Sulaiman, Vice President, Youth and Justice Programs at Comm Corp.

**Aadil Sulaiman:** Gave an overview of Commonwealth Corporation's Youth and Justice Programs which include the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, Young Adults with Disabilities, DYS Skill up, and Youth Works. Overall, Comm Corps youth programs have served over 7000 youth through 2023-2024. Aadil mentioned that Comm Corp is transitioning to a new sales force

database that will help store and manage data on the impact of each program and where they can improve geographically.

**Rad Nova:** Discussed how Junior Achievement of Greater Boston's vision is to close the wealth and opportunity gaps in the key impact communities of Boston, Chelsea, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Quincy, and Somerville by creating middle school to career pathways, increasing access to financial literacy, and igniting youth entrepreneurship. Rad discussed the JA student experience for both middle school and High school students which includes classes in Economics, personal finance, job shadowing, and how to be an entrepreneur. Rad also highlighted his annual JA Inspire event, which is held at the Hynes Convention Center. Rad mentioned that over 2000 students over the past two years in the Greater Boston area have interacted with 60 plus organizations and business exhibitors, showing off their various industries and interacting with activities and both presentations. Rad also highlighted students who went through the Junior Achievement program that became interns with partner organizations such as Accenture, Eaton Vance, and AIG. Many of those students then became full time employees.

### **Workforce Development Updates:**

**Secretary Lauren Jones:** Gave a quick overview of the State Workforce Agenda and the focus areas of Talent Attraction and Retention, Talent Development, Leadership by Example, and Workforce Development.

The Secretary highlighted the Caregivers Taskforce, which is an interagency taskforce formed to create recommended actions around improving access, capacity, and affordability to caregiving. She mentioned that Josh Cutler is spearheading this taskforce and that Darien Johnson will be leveraging the board in this work. She also mentioned the Mass Skills Coalition and discussed how this subgroup will provide resources and data to support talent attraction and retention, focused specifically on skilled based hires, including but not limited to re-writing job descriptions, reviewing existing assessment tools, and adopting new interview processes.

**Alysia Ordway:** provided a map of the infrastructure of the Workforce System and how she plans to increase the engagement of the MassHire State Workforce Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. A tour of the new student center building and nursing and healthcare training area at Bunker Hill Community College followed the meeting for board members and guests. Kristen Mckenna gave an overview of the Workforce Development Department of BHCC before the tour.