

**Massachusetts Workforce Development Board**  
**Board Committee Updates**  
***October – December, 2016***

<b>Economic Opportunity Committee</b>
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Finding that the Economic Opportunity Committee’s scope is broad with respect to the recommendations from the Governor’s *Task Force on Populations Facing Chronically High Rates of Unemployment* as well as the diverse subsets of the population facing employment challenges, the committee focused its October committee meeting on identifying specific deliverables for the short-, medium-, and long-term. The committee narrowed its focus by surveying members on various opportunities of impact prior to the October meeting, and then used the meeting to discuss and confirm two key deliverables the committee will pursue:

- Work with the [Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund \(WCTF\)](#) – a demand-driven strategy that invests in training and education programs to train unemployed and underemployed workers for jobs that are in demand. The committee will explore opportunities for applying the model to enhance employment opportunities for the target populations based on reported progress and outcomes from the FY 17 WTCF funding.
- Provide guidance and feedback to the [Career Readiness Initiative](#) – a statewide, multi-agency initiative aimed to to enhance work readiness skills and improve employment outcomes for low-skilled and/or unemployed individuals.

The committee will spend early 2017 gaining a deeper understanding of these programs, and identifying measurable goals the committee would like to pursue over the year.

**Co-Chairs:** Aixa Beauchamp & Anne Broholm

**Members:** Jesse Brown, Jerry Burke, James Cassetta, Sherry Dong, Carol Ozelius, Warren Pepicelli, Joseph Wagner, Beth Williams

**2017 Meeting Dates:** January 18<sup>th</sup>, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, August (TBD), October 11<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup>; meeting times are 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

## Labor Market and Workforce Information Committee

The Labor Market and Workforce Information (LMWI) Committee met via conference call on the afternoon of Friday, November 18, 2016. Members of the committee received updates on initiatives related to LMWI including Regional Planning, DCAMM's Capital Planning with Public Higher Education Institutions, and the [Employment and Training Administration \(ETA\) Annual Report](#).

The committee also reviewed a proposed format for a standard dashboard that includes labor supply data (unemployment insurance claimants) and labor demand data (job posting information by county, industry, and occupation.) The committee discussed modifying the draft to include more demographic context relative to the general population, as well as other data sources for labor demand.

The committee also began reviewing two "deep dives": one into the occupation of Engineering, and the other into the industry of Construction. The committee conducts this exercise to determine if more nuanced data can point to better deliberation and decision-making.

The next meetings will focus on continuing the discussion on the "deep dive", as well as refining the LMWI dashboard.

**Co-Chairs:** Pam Eddinger & Joanne Pokaski

**Members:** Joanne Berwald, Eric Hagopian, Susan Mailman, Beth Mitchell, Elizabeth Skidmore

**2017 Meeting Dates:** January 19<sup>th</sup>, February 16<sup>nd</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>; meeting times are 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## WIOA Oversight Committee

The WIOA Oversight Committee met on November 9<sup>th</sup> during which members received updates on WIOA implementation, including approval of the combined state plan, the [WIOA Partner Convening](#) on December 6<sup>th</sup>, and the local umbrella Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Policy Development. The committee was also updated on workforce system performance dashboard, which is under development. EOLWD has partnered with Harvard Kennedy School graduate student, Jesse Cohen, who will build a performance dashboard for the Board as part of his graduate thesis.

Members discussed and confirmed their role as acting on behalf of the full board to receive appeals for the local MOU that each of the sixteen workforce areas must execute with their required and voluntary WIOA partners, subsequent local workforce area designation, and the One-Stop Career Center Operator competitive selection process. The process includes the Board Executive Director identifying

three individuals from the WIOA Oversight Committee to carry out the appeal's due process, such as a hearing, and issue a determination within 30 days.

The committee was also given a briefing on the Workforce System Re-Branding initiative and discussed the role of the WIOA Oversight Committee in this effort.

**Chair:** Secretary Ronald Walker, II

**Members:** Joanne Berwald, Donna Cupelo, Cassius Johnson, Robert LePage, John G. Mann, Juliette Mayers, Nicky Osborne, Juan Vega, Raymond Wrobel

**2017 Meeting Dates:** January 17<sup>th</sup>, February 21<sup>st</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, October 17<sup>th</sup>, November 21<sup>st</sup>; meeting times are 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

## Youth Committee

Members of the Youth Committee convened on November 17<sup>th</sup> at PTC in Needham.

The committee was updated on a new grant from the US Department of Education called New Skills for Youth. Staff also briefed members on the WIOA implementation, including the state convening. Susan Lange joined the committee meeting to provide an update on the Commonwealth Corporation's professional skills training program, "[Signal Success](#)," and the connections they are making with summer and year-round employment programs throughout the Commonwealth. Finally, staff concluded the orientation of committee focusing on three specific topics: labor market data, understanding "career pathways," and WIOA performance measures.

Members decided that the next meeting will be used to consider a set of potential goals for improving youth outcomes on indicators where we have viable data. Staff will compile options and make them available for members to consider. Further, we aim to look across all various initiatives and efforts directed at youth in Massachusetts to determine where there are gaps and/or opportunities to accelerate efforts through various levers available to committee. We hope to recommend a goal and priorities for the full MWDB at the next board meeting in March.

**Chair:** Cassius Johnson

**Members:** Kristin Broadley, Kathleen Cullen-Cote, Driscoll DoCanto, John Mann

**2017 Meeting Dates:** January 5<sup>th</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup>; meeting times are 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon