

Massachusetts Workforce Development Board Board Committee Updates

Economic Opportunity Committee

The Economic Opportunity Committee has met twice. The first meeting took place in June where the committee was given an overview of the programs, efforts, and initiatives focused on or serving the committee's target populations: people with disabilities, veterans, African Americans/Blacks, Latino Americans/Hispanics, Native Americans, and veterans. The second meeting was in July and met via phone/webinar. The focus of that meeting was on orienting members to the work and recommendations of the *Governor's Task Force on Populations Facing Chronically High Rates of Unemployment*.

The Committee is finding that the committee's charge is broad with respect to both the issues at hand as well as the diverse subsets of the population facing employment challenges. For the next meeting the goal of the Committee is to come to consensus on tangible action items that the committee can be address in the short-, medium-, and long-term. This requires narrowing the focus of the committee to select several areas of impact.

The short term goals are the most critical to identify quickly as these will provide the scope of the committee for the balance of this year. Areas discussed – among others – are:

- Alignment of the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (WCTF) with goals of the target population and how that can be achieved;
- Provide general oversight to the the Career Readiness Initiative to best serve the employment goals of the target populations;
- Analysis of the outcomes and impacts on One-Stop Career Center job fairs and how these can better serve the targeted communities, and make recommendations accordingly
- Explore employer outreach options, and how to enhance employer engagement with respect to hiring from the targeted populations.

The next committee meeting will be mid-October.

Co-Chairs: Aixa Beauchamp & Anne Broholm

Members: Jesse Brown, Jerry Burke, James Cassetta, Sherry Dong, Carol Ozelius, Raymond Wrobel, Beth Williams

Labor Market and Workforce Information Committee

The Labor Market and Workforce Information (LMWI) Committee is comprised of seven Workforce Development Board members from the sectors of healthcare, advanced manufacturing, engineering, the building trades, and higher education. The Committee is staffed by Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning Greg Bunn and Executive Director Cheryl Scott. The primary goal of the Committee is to identify key information that will help the full Board understand the state of employment in the regions of the Commonwealth, and inform workforce policies and strategies in the industries, in education, and other related sectors.

The Committee met twice this summer. It completed initial orientation activities at its first meeting on May 31st, including a discussion on the scope of work and deliverables and a review of the range of data reports available from the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development as well as federal sources.

In advance of the second meeting, members were asked to prioritize areas of interest for one-time data analysis, as well as data that should be shared regularly with the board on a regular “dashboard.” The August 17th committee meeting saw a full and productive discussion on the prioritization of various labor market intelligence topics. Members came to consensus on prioritizing a “deep dive” analysis on jobs in four areas: IT, hospitality, engineering and construction. This deep dive is likely to involve both statewide and regional information.

At our next meeting, in October, will review a “mock up” of a regular dashboard to be produced for the full committee and give our feedback on it.

Co-Chairs: Pam Eddinger & Joanne Pokaski

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

WIOA Oversight Committee

The WIOA Oversight Committee has met three times since over the spring and summer. The first committee meeting was focused on reviewing Massachusetts’ WIOA Combined State Plan, the five goals stated in the plan, and an overview of the stakeholders engaged in WIOA implementation efforts. Committee members were asked what areas of oversight of the public workforce system they felt was important for the committee to address, and what data or outcomes of the public workforce system they would like to see. From that discussion the committee centered on the goal of creating a workforce system performance dashboard so the Board could receive regular updates on the state’s progress toward implementing WIOA and overall workforce system effectiveness. The committee

spent subsequent meetings in July and September fleshing out the dashboard concept, identifying the metrics and indicators on workforce system outcomes and impact they would like to see.

The Committee also devotes meeting time to briefings on the WIOA provisions where the State Workforce Board has a defined role. Thus far the committee has been briefed on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that each of the sixteen workforce areas must execute with their required and voluntary WIOA partners, local workforce area designation, and the One-Stop Career Center Operator competitive selection process. The State Board must serve as the appealing body should a person or an entity not agree with the outcomes of these processes. The Committee spent the last meeting shaping the State Workforce Board's role in the appeal process, and has drafted a process whereby the WIOA Oversight Committee serves as the appealing body on behalf of the State Board. This proposal is undergoing legal review and will be further developed in the next meeting in November.

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

Youth Committee

The Youth Committee has held two meetings since the MWDB was sworn in by Governor Baker. Executive Director Cheryl Scott has been joined by Sacha Stadhard on both occasions to provide baseline knowledge to the full Youth Committee on existing work focused on youth in the Commonwealth, the major pillars of the WIOA State plan, and available youth labor market data. Most recently, Susan Lane from the Commonwealth Corporation briefed the committee on CompCorp's own youth committee work and research, specifically the Signaling Success soft skills curriculum.

Topics that continue to surface in conversations include the need to improve data regarding youth market participation. This is essential to weighing if the committee might recommend an outcome goal specific to improving youth participation and success in the labor market. Another topic is related to the need to focus on addressing persistent employer concern about professional skill deficiencies among youth. Finally, members have expressed concern about the capacity of WIBs and especially providers to address the professional skills gap and to effectively make the shift to serving more out of school youth as required by WIOA. The Youth Committee has requested additional information regarding "career pathways" for the next meeting to inform further planning and considered of near and long term priorities and goal.

Chair: Cassius Johnson

Members: Kristin Broadley, Kathleen Cullen-Cote, John G. Mann