

Massachusetts Workforce Development Board Meeting

Thursday, February 25, 2016

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Massachusetts State House

Senate Room #438

24 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02133

Members Present:

Aixa Beauchamp, Joanne Berwald, Kristin Broadley, Anne Broholm, Jesse Brown, Gerard Burke, Donna, Driscoll DoCanto, Sherry Dong, Eileen Donoghue, Kimberley Driscoll (late), Carol Grady, Eric D. Hagopian, Danroy T. Henry, Sr., Cassius Johnson, Susan Mailman, John G. Mann, Juliette C. Mayers, Beth Mitchell, Nicky Osborne, Warren Pepicelli, James A. Peyser (left early), Joanne Pokaski, Juan Vega, Joseph Wagner, Ronald Walker II (left early), Beth Williams

Members Absent:

James Cassetta, Kathleen Cullen-Cote, Pam Eddinger, Daniel Rivera, Raymond Wrobel

Staff and Guests:

Charlie Baker (Governor), Nicholas Butts (Boards & Commissions), Pahola DeLeon (Exec. Office of Labor and Workforce Development), Michael Doheny (Exec. Office of Labor and Workforce Development), Beth Goguen (Dept. Career Services), Diane Hurley (Dept. Career Services), Jennifer James (Exec. Office of Labor and Workforce Development), Dan Lee (Governor's Office), Bill McKinney (Dept. Labor Standards), Ken Messina (Dept. Career Services), David Muldrew (Exec. Office of Labor and Workforce Development), Stephanie Neal-Johnson (Exec. Office of Labor and Workforce Development), Rory O'Hanlon (Rep. Wagner), Ronald Marlow (Exec. Office of Labor and Workforce Development), Jessica Muradian (Exec. Office of Labor and Workforce Development), Colleen Quinn (Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development), Susan Quinones (MA Workforce Professionals Association), Ed Palleschi (Boards & Commissions), Yashira Pepin (Exec. Office of Labor and Workforce Development), Nathan Pham (Verizon), Cheryl Scott (MA Workforce Development Board), Nancy Snyder (Commonwealth Corporation), Sacha Stadhard (Dept. Career Services), Alice Sweeney (Dept. Career Services), Bella Zuo (Reporter)

Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Secretary Walker welcomed and congratulated the new members of the Massachusetts Workforce Development Board. He provided an overview of the Board membership, noting that Donna Cupelo, Region President of Verizon, will chair the board. The Board is charged with advising the Governor, and himself, on policies to coordinate job training and job placement services through the public

workforce system, issuing policy recommendations to align the workforce and improve performance accountability, as well as develop strategies to promote workforce participation of women, people of color, veterans, and persons with disabilities across industry sectors. Secretary Walker noted that across the state he hears from employers who have jobs to fill, but cannot find enough qualified workers to hire, and that employers are worried about where future workers are going to be trained. A major focus of the Baker administration is on getting the skills for jobs in industries that are growing across our commonwealth. He concluded by thanking the Board for taking on this task on behalf the Commonwealth.

Governor Baker welcomed the new Board members. He noted that when he met with Vice President Biden and as he spoke with fellow Governors around the country, workforce training and closing the “skill gap” was a predominant issue facing the nation. And, like Secretary Walker, this is also the message he hears about in his travels around the Commonwealth. The change in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) presents Massachusetts with an opportunity to redefine and reimagine how we create skill-building programs to improve employment outcomes while meeting employer hiring demand. The Board will play a major role in this effort and will be critical to driving economic growth and creating new job opportunities for residents in the Commonwealth. He thanked the Board for their service.

Governor Baker presided over the swearing in ceremony; board members collectively gave their oath of office.

Opening Remarks & Introductions

Donna Cupelo officially opened the meeting. She welcomed and congratulated the Board members on their appointment. Each Board member introduced themselves by sharing their name, affiliation, city/region, and interest in workforce development. Ms. Cupelo reinforced the message that the Board will play a critical role in assisting the development of workforce development policy for the Commonwealth through their quarterly Board meetings, and in the Board Committees. Ms. Cupelo reminded everyone that the meeting is an open meeting, and that while there are guests attending she ask that comments, questions and discussion be limited to Board members only.

Cheryl Scott welcomed and congratulated members, and introduced herself. Ms. Scott reviewed the agenda and reminded Board members that they needed to submit to her signed copies of the forms that were completed during the meeting. She also mentioned that members will be requested to complete a Board survey as well as attend a Board member orientation which will be scheduled for the following month.

By-Laws, Open Meeting Law, Conflict of Interest

Michael Doheny requested Board members share any questions, comments or edits to the draft Board by-laws that were distributed to Board members via email, and in their Board member packets.

There were no further questions or remarks from the Board. Donna took the motion to adopt the by-laws, it was seconded, and approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Doheny then noted that the Board and its committees are subject to Open Meeting Law requirements, that is, when a quorum of the members is present, all deliberations of the Board and committees must be open to the public. He also noted that all members must familiarize themselves with Open Meeting Law and sign the Open Meeting Law certificate of receipt form, and acknowledgement of receipt of the Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law. He opened the floor for questions and comments; there were none. Cheryl Scott noted that she will be collecting the signed forms at the end of the meeting, and follow up with more information regarding completion of the Conflict of Interest Training.

Massachusetts Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Combined State Plan

Jennifer James gave a presentation of the key highlights WIOA State Plan, including an overview of the State Plan mission, vision, goals, strategies and public comment and review process. Ms. James noted that the draft plan is online for review, as well as the comments that have been submitted thus far. She shared that notes from the State Plan public meetings will be posted as well. Board members are encouraged to read the full plan, and view these public comments.

One member asked if the comments on the plan were broken down by topic areas or population (for example, comments about services for veterans). Ms. James responded in general the comments were not broken down by topic; commenters could submit their comments in various forms – some provided a formal letter, others just wrote a few words in response to the plan, some had very specific suggestions on wording and phrases, others had general overall feedback. Overall, however, the feedback has been positive. Another member asked what areas of the plan have potential for conflict. Ms. James responded that there were not many, but some include: the career center redesign process, identifying shared customers, resources, and partner contributions to the one-stop system, federal accountability measures which are new some agency partners, how the program partners will be required to operate and coordinate in a new way, and the state-designed performance measures which will require data systems and programs to operate in a different way. All of these implementation areas entail significant work for systems and operations, but fortunately, all of the WIOA partners were committed to working together as we collectively engage in this process

MWDB Committees

Cheryl Scott provided a brief introduction to the proposed list of Board Committees. A member asked if there are any board committees focusing on the challenges of having a language barrier and the needs of older workers. Ms. Scott responded that those issues would probably be addressed in the proposed Committee on the Populations Facing Employment Challenges, but the Board can certainly revisit that if they feel these issues aren't getting the proper attention in that committee. A Board

member requested members sign up for a committee through the forthcoming Board Member survey. Ms. Scott responded that she will follow that suggestion. A member asked if only Board members could serve on a committee. Ms. Scott responded that is the approach for right now. Ms. Cupelo accepted a motion to adopt the proposed committee structure; the motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Cupelo adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.