



FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE WORKFORCE BOARD

101 Munson Street, Suite
210
Greenfield, MA 01301

MassHire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board
Minutes of December 5, 2024 via Zoom
8:07 AM to 9:01 AM

(Approved by the Workforce Board)

Board Members in Attendance:

Neil Scanlon (Board Chair)	Clare Higgins	Lisa Clauson
Colleen Kucinski	Alan Wolf	Laurie Millman
Mark Dore	Sarah Sargent	John Waite
Sue Sumner	Emily Davis	

Board Members not in Attendance:

Allison van der Velden (1 st Vice Chair)	Brenda Evans	Jeff Napolitano
Michelle Schutt	Ken Messina	Zoy Soulis
Melissa Eaton (2 nd Vice Chair)	Alex Colonna	Shardool Parmar
	Ashley McFarlane	Cindy Peeters

MassHire Staff in Attendance:

Sarah Wilson	Maura Geary
Laura Whittier	Cindy Ray

Others in Attendance:

Mayor Sciarra	Erin Anhalt	Interpreter Janet Dickinson
Diane Hurley, EWOLD	Kristen Cole	Interpreter Briann

Agenda Items I & II: Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

Board Chair Neil Scanlon called the meeting to order and called for vote on meeting minutes.

- Motion: To approve the October 17, 2024 FHWP Meeting Minutes by Sue Sumner, seconded by John Waite. Vote: Carried by majority. No discussion followed.

Agenda Item III: Board Member Spotlight

Sumner Heating Owner Sue Sumner provided an overview of her business services and advocacy for Western Mass. Sue fielded questions regarding working with industry regulators to contextualize how consumers in rural areas differ urban areas. Sue spoke about new DEP regulations are requiring extensive discussion and emphasized how small business owners can part of the solution for educating others moving forward. Northampton Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra shared that she's on the Massachusetts Energy Transformation Advisory Board (the first in our nation) and actively welcomed WB member perspectives to inform the state board.

Agenda Item IV: Learning Moment WIOA Overview

FHWP Executive Director Sarah Wilson introduced Acting Director of the Mass Higher Department of Career Services, Diane Hurley. Diane employed a PPT about WIOA to provide information including the governance structure. The Board received a copy of the PPT shortly after the meeting. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is legislation authorized through Congress as federal guidance for the workforce system. This guidance is to help Americans with significant barriers getting into or back into the workforce, and to help employers hire and retain skilled workers.

Diane detailed the responsibilities of the local WBs. The board has strategic functions, system and capacity building functions, and is intended to ensure systems alignment and effective operations. The work is accomplished through several local plans. Engagement from all boards and career centers helps to develop the guidance and criteria to fulfill local plans with an integrated budget, service goals and performance goals. Diane's overview of Board responsibilities includes:

- conduct workforce research and regional labor market analysis
- lead career pathways development
- identify and promote promising practices to meet the needs of employers and all workers
- identify the eligible training providers
- establish and maintain MOUs with partners
- conduct oversight of local youth activities

Agenda Item V: Directors' Report

Sarah Wilson confirmed the upcoming departure of longtime member Cindy Peeters and lauded her 23 years of service to the Workforce Board. Sarah welcomed new Board members Emily Davis and Sarah Sargent as she facilitated their introductions to the group. Sarah shared a PPT to provide information on progress made and emailed it to Board members as a follow up. Updates were provided for youth programs, manufacturer convenings in our workforce area, the WB role as convener for a local outdoor recreation alliance group, and on the upcoming RFP process for the One-Stop Career Center. Sarah asked Board members to volunteer for a bid review team.

Agenda Item VI: Board Strategic Planning Discussion

Sarah verbally reviewed the current strategic plan and called for volunteers. Surveys will be conducted for data gathering, followed by interviews, data analysis, and review. Everyone interested in helping to design the upcoming strategic plan is asked to contact Sarah. This committee will meet Jan-June in 2025.

Agenda Item VII: Other Business

None.

Agenda Item VIII: Adjourn

- Motion: To adjourn by Sue Turner, seconded by Alan Wolf. Vote: Unanimous. No discussion followed.