

## **Career Services Committee Meeting – 9/15/20**

*In attendance: Carmela Albano, Way Finders, Iliana Caez, MassHire Springfield Career Center, Bud Delphin, MassHire Holyoke, Shannon Doran, Greenfield Community College, Rep.-Elect Pat Duffy, City of Holyoke, Anne Kandilis, Springfield Works, Lisa Lapierre, Community Action, Tiffany Munford, MassHire Hampden County Regional Employment Board, Judy Raper, Greenfield Community College, Jasmin Rojas, Way Finders, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Taina Torres, DTA/Holyoke, Lauren Voyer, Way Finders, Pamela Wojtkowski, MassHire Berkshires*

### **Program updates:**

**Community Action:** actively enrolling in WIOA, youth up to ages 24. Young Parents Program accepting youth in Franklin County. Start-up process for N'ton Youth Works Program, moving to virtual program for up to 20 youth, enrollment allowable across region (outside N'ton), stipend-based program. Process of hiring for workforce specialist position for youth homelessness demonstration program (YHDP), starting in Nov. Continuing to operate LGBTQ program. Will be hosting job fair for YHDP programs (MHA, Gandara, DIAL/SELF, CAPV) and will send info.

**Springfield Works:** Cross-team meeting this morning discussing unemployment, labor force and how people are going to get to work. We have a lot of jobs - even though MA has unemployment rate of 16.1% - there are jobs - the issue is how to combine child care and remote learning partners - how to help parents with kids under 12 get to work. Ability to create partnerships is going to be more important than ever.

Cliff Effect bill is now in House Ways and Means. Great progress. Really important pilot for our population.

Labor participation rates show a dip that is all about the complications around school, child care and work. The # of women have dropped the most - a function of parenting/child care demands.

**MassHires:** WIOA available through the career centers, using the virtual advantage around geographic flexibility. All offering virtual services - career counseling, resume writing, etc, and flexible about where to go.

A discussion about Emergency Family Medical Leave Act - see attachment for more info.

**Greenfield Community College:** working on building bridges for students; offering series of career development workshops online. GCC enrollment is down 11% (typical decline is 5% due to changing demographics, 11% decline is actually less than estimated). Remote learning is difficult.

Two initiatives underway at GCC: (1) planning grant from DESE to partner with high school for students at high risk; creating more fast-track options for students to employment. Looking at all factors that combine to create barriers. One year for planning and then an implementation grant and (2) working closely Innovation Center in Quabbin Region. Transforming downtown center to a rural innovation center, supporting community education, possible second career, recovery support. Looking at micro-credentials, skill-building courses, how to conquer obstacles. Employers are looking for essential basic skill building

**Secure Jobs Initiative:** getting referrals from the DTA office is more difficult now due to COVID, working with DTA to increase referrals.

**Job search tool:** flagged MassHire Job Quest go to:  
<https://jobquest.dcs.eol.mass.gov/jobquest/Training.aspx>

### **Network Updates:**

The Network is actively participating in the Statewide Task Force on Coronavirus and Equity, organized by the Mass. Public Health Association - 100 organizations statewide thus far. [Click here](#) to learn more and consider joining. Pamela is testifying on behalf of the Network before the Legislative Health Equity taskforce ([see her testimony here](#)).

As part of the Taskforce, the Network signed on to the Invest in Our Recovery campaign to advocate for raising revenues through progressive tax increases (large corporations) instead of budget cuts. See the [organizational sign-on letter here](#).

The Network is also very involved in the [Right to Counsel Coalition](#), working to pass legislation to create a right to a lawyer in evictions (right now in eviction cases 80% of landlords have lawyers while 7% of tenants have representation). As the end of the eviction moratorium approaches (10/17, with the national moratorium - weaker than state - due to end 12/31), legal representation is more critical than ever to prevent homelessness.

**Next meeting date: Tuesday, Nov. 17 11 am**