

Career Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 1/13/21

In attendance: Carmela Albano Way Finders, Luis Arzola, CHD, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Shannon Doran, Greenfield Community College, Jeff Hayden, Holyoke Community College, Anne Kandilis, Springfield Works, Amy Klein, Hampshire HOPE, Tiffany Munford, Mass Hire Hampden County Workforce Board, Cindy Ray, Mass Hire Franklin/Hampshire Konrad Rogowski, MassHire Springfield Career Center, Jasmin Rojas, Way Finders, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Pamela Wojtkowski, MassHire Berkshire Career Center

Network Legislative/Policy Updates

- The Legislature passed the Economic Development bill on Jan. 6 which is now awaiting the Governor's signature. **NOW is the time** for us to write/call the Governor to urge him to sign the bill ASAP without any amendments. See [this Network blog post](#) for more information and contact info. [Note: the Governor signed the bill on 1/14/21 but vetoed two important tenant provisions: eviction record sealing and the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act.]
- The FY21 Budget, passed on 12/31/20, included important tenant eviction protections. See [this Network blog post](#) for the details. In short: a pending rental assistance application will suspend an eviction case for non-payment of rent. AND, a specific Notice to Quit must be issued - with very specific information around tenant rights and resources - or the eviction filing is not valid and the case cannot continue.
- DHCD has just issued new RAFT policies that will make RAFT more accessible, including a lifting of the "sustainability" requirement and more flexibility around documentation requirements. Please [go here](#) to see DHCD summary of program changes. DHCD has hired staff to assist with applications since the number of applications is extraordinary.

Program Updates:

Mass Hire Berkshire Career Center - all virtual, full array of services, many workshops, job fairs, etc. Working closely in partnership with Berkshire Community College with introduction of 15 new education-to-go online courses.

Holyoke Community College - New program - Accelerated Career English (ACE) to help people improve language skills - contact Pasha Black at pblack@hcc.edu to get learn more. Also reminder of the Jump Start program - trainings for people receiving public assistance with courses in many tracks - contact Amy Funk, afunk@hcc.edu. Still waiting to hear outcomes on 4 different grant applications for various trainings - whatever is awarded, dollars will have to be spent by 6/30 so there will have to be fast action. Relevant links: hcc.edu/job-ready ; <https://thetechfoundry.org/the-program/apply-now/> ; <https://www.hcc.edu/courses-and-programs/workforce-development/free/subsidized-classes-for-unemployed-and-underemployed/>

MassHire Springfield Career Center- all virtual, all programs are fully operational. Expanded webinar offerings. Offering live and recorded webinars 7 days/week, day and evenings.

Greenfield Community College - enrollment time for Spring semester; down 21%. Just launched recruitment tool HandShake for employers to reach college students - community colleges just applied for a grant to implement this. Very exciting resource. To consider: how can this tool be integrated with MassHire offices - suggested career centers create an employer profile on the site so they can share their events and resources through this vehicle. *GCC is offering 3 'Career (& College Major) Exploration' webinars this month. These are offered before each semester and are open to the public. They will be available on <https://www.gcc.mass.edu/career-services/get-a-job/workshops/> soon.*

Way Finders: all virtual, convening job readiness workshops bi-weekly. Once client completes all 5 sessions, they receive a certificate and a gift card. The cohorts include CEIS referrals from DTA and Secure Jobs referrals from shelter, RAFT, HomeBASE programs. Secure Jobs is on track to meet its placement goals (amazing considering this time we're in!) and maintaining a livable wage for job placements.

Mass Hire Franklin/Hampshire Career Center - all virtual , issuing weekly newsletter promoting services; offering trainings and have slots to offer for trainings for those who qualify. Connecting to statewide program Mass Internet Connect - free internet services, potential for subsidized laptop and Chrome Books

Center for Human Development: conducting 8 week career coaching sessions. Working closely with HCC and STCC.

Springfield Works: Refiling the cliff effect legislation. Support for it is great and this legislative session advocacy will start strong and early.

Next meeting date:

Wed., Feb. 24, 1 pm - 2 pm