

## **Career Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 2/24/21**

*In attendance: Carmela Albano, Way Finders, Kristin Cole, GCC, Irving Concepción, Bud Delphin, Mass Hire Holyoke, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Shannon Doran, GCC, Anne Kandilis, Springfield Works, Jessican Lenihan, GCC, Jose Lopez-Figueroa, STCC, Judy Raper, GCC, Cindy Ray, Mass Hire Franklin/Hampshire, Konrad Rogowski, Mass Hire Springfield, Pamela Wojtkowski, Mass Hire Berkshire*

**FY22 Budget and Legislative Update:** New 2-year legislative session began this January. Bill filing deadline was 2/19. Now begins the time to request co-sponsorship.

Anne Kandilis shared information on the Western MA Cliff Effect pilot, sponsored by Sen. Lesser, and Reps. Duffy and González. It made a lot of progress in the last legislative session and hopefully this session it will get over the finish line. You can read more [here](#).

The Network is working on its FY22 Budget and Legislative Priorities and has meetings scheduled with our Western MA delegation the week of March 8 to discuss them. Most immediately, see [this blog post](#) on the COVID-19 Housing Equity bill a top priority. Stay tuned for additional priorities and more detail early next week. Be sure to [subscribe to the Network blog](#) to be in this important action loop!

**Discussion:** The remainder of our time together was spent discussing the current conditions impacting low enrollment in training programs. Various COVID-19 factors at work, including: safety concerns re: COVID; children at home (and home-schooling them!), lack of child care, lack of sanctions in DTA or UI programs (in view of previous considerations) that would otherwise require people to participate. There are many trainings going under-enrolled, many possible jobs available, but the demand right now is low everywhere, across career centers and community college programs and Way Finders. The outreach and support will continue.

An exciting new development: DHCD's Career Pathways program - a 5 year grant, funding Way Finders in collaboration with career centers, designed to work with individuals over a 5 year timeline, providing career readiness direction, training and support. It's operating through Way Finders' Family Support Services, currently planning on working with 25 families. Contact Luz Rivera at Way Finders with referral questions.

**Announcements:** MassHire Holyoke is looking for a new youth services director. Berkshire MassHire also has openings. See their respective websites for more info.

**Next meeting date: Wed., 4/7, 1 pm**