

Career Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 4/7/21

In attendance: Carmela Albano, Way Finders, Iliana Caez, MassHire Springfield, Kristin Cole, GCC, Bud Delphin, MassHire Holyoke, Shannon Doran, GCC, Jeff Hayden, HCC, Jessica Lenihan, GCC, Cindy, Ray, Career Services Franklin/Hampshire, Konrad Rogowski, MassHire Springfield

Program updates:

- **Holyoke Community College** - new TRAIN program starting, focused on job readiness; also offering ongoing Accelerated Career English; continuing recruitment for Jump Start programs (10-12 cohorts, including CNA, customer service jobs). Also, two credit certificates available at no cost: <http://www.hcc.edu/free-cda-for-early-childhood-educators> and <http://www.hcc.edu/courses-and-programs/areas-of-study/health-sciences/foundations-of-health/community-health-worker-apprenticeship-program>
- **MassHire Holyoke** - WIOA programs are continuing to enroll people; connecting people with Mass Internet connect resource for Chromebooks and wifi access; Opioid grant offering program to assist with job search for people affected by opioid abuse (contact ksmith@masshireholyoec.org for more info). Noted challenge of recruiting people to enroll in manufacturing training programs - Cindy Ray will connect Bud to Andrew Baker who is their liaison to similar recruitment and has met with success
- **MassHire Franklin Hampshire** - info session coming up for advanced manufacturing, job fairs in April (home health industry); 4/5 job fair for youth ages 16-24, recruiting businesses looking to hire young people; hiring at career center for workshop facilitator, also connecting people to Mass Internet.
- **MassHire Springfield:** similarly, utilizing Mass Internet Connect; offering TRAIN program and webinars live and recorded; Offering bi-lingual training for the Latino community over 50 years old - [see flyer here](#) - first workshop 4/21.
- **MassHire Berkshire** (via email): Premier Virtual job fair on April 27, 2021, more information is posted on our website www.masshireberkshirecc.com
- **Greenfield Community College** - currently GCC is in transition with TOP program - trainer opportunity program - so applications are on hold. Running 2 manufacturing programs, one with Community Action and another at Franklin Tech. Discussed use of Handshake - <https://joinhandshake.com/> - across the college and wanting to ensure that career center offerings still have a way of getting to the student body (she is relaying info through other outlets).
- **Secure Jobs** (Way Finders) - continuing with bi-weekly cohorts for their job readiness workshops. Placed 14 people in jobs in March (primarily housekeeping and CNA, good partnerships with hospitals). In process of creating partnerships to offer accredited programs in-house, including, HI-SET, ESOL. Way Finders is beginning a phased opening to the public soon.

Federal and State Policy Update: Pamela summarized the new federal resources coming down the pike through the American Rescue Plan Act (rental assistance, affordable housing

resources). Communities and providers are beginning discussions now on planning. Learn more by subscribing to the Network blog at <http://westernmasshousingfirst.org>.

The Network is continuing to meet with state legislators regarding its [legislative priorities](#) and the [FY22 budget priorities](#).

Save the date for Network annual event - Friday, June 4, 10 am - 11 am - See the flyer and register [here](#):

Next meeting date: Wed., May 26, 1-2 pm