

## **Career Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 9/22/21**

*In attendance: Carmela Albano, Way Finders, Bud Delphin, MassHire Holyoke, Shannon Doran, GCC, Jess Lenihan, GCC, Tiffany Munford, MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, Cindy Ray, MassHire Franklin Hampshire, Jasmin Rojas, Way Finders, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Cherry Sullivan, Northampton Health Department, Tasia Williams, STCC, Pamela Wojtkowski, MassHire Berkshire*

### **MassHire Career Center Updates**

- Career Centers have been open for appointments and all offices statewide are opening completely on 10/4. All noted the low numbers of people seeking services relative to what was anticipated with the Pandemic Unemployment benefits ending in early September. Discussed possible factors of fear of covid, lack of child care, covid-influenced career changes.
- All Career Centers are offering a full range of programs, including various job fairs (see Franklin Hampshire flyer attached re: virtual job fair of 10/6). A complete listing of programs and services are available on career center websites.
- MassHire Franklin Hampshire is hiring internally for 4 positions - see website for further info.
- Hampden County Workforce announced a CDL training program open to residents in Springfield - can connect via Springfield or Holyoke Career Centers

### **Secure Jobs Update:**

- Operating at full capacity - also noting referrals are relatively slow.
- Placed 21 clients in employment since July, 2021

### **Cliff Effect Bill Advocacy and Hearing**

The cliff effect bill is scheduled to be heard at a legislative hearing on **September 29**. Read more on the bill [here](#). Organizations: please consider submitting testimony in support! See [here](#) for the template for testimony. Also note the legislative briefing on the bill is October 26 at 10 am - stay tuned for more info on this but please mark your calendars!

TOP applications - Jose had some questions (via Tasia) - Pamela will connect Shannon, Tasia and Tiffany off-line to go more in-depth with answers.

CoC Funding competition: Our 2 Continuums of Care have released their Requests for Proposals for HUD housing funds for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing. [Click here](#) to learn more. Deadline is October 15.

### **Network Policy Updates:**

- Eviction crisis continues to imperil many tenants in the region and across the state. Network is continuing to work on passage of the [COVID-19 Housing Equity bill](#).

- Upcoming legislative hearings on October 12 on Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) and other housing bills. Stay tuned via the blog for ways to connect. Be sure to subscribe: <http://westernmasshousingfirst.org>
- The Network is coordinating meetings of city/town officials and providers and legislators to discuss planning for the winter shelter needs and around engagement in the allocation of the federal funds via the American Rescue Plan Act. Again, stay connected via the blog!

Next meeting date: Wednesday, November 17, 2pm - 3 pm