

Career Services Meeting - 3/16/22

In attendance: Carmela Albano, Way Finders, Brunilda Aponte, Way Finders, Iliana Caez, MassHire Springfield, Bud Delphin, MassHire Holyoke, Shannon Doran, GCC, Cindy Ray, MassHire Franklin Hampshire, Pamela Schwartz, Network

Cliff Effect Bill: - bill moved favorably out of first committee to Ways and Means - meetings with legislative leaders continue. Anne will keep us posted on when it's time to act with supportive letters, etc.

MassHire Holyoke - Virtual Job Fair coming up - employers are registering quickly, job seekers are not. Offices are open by appointment; next week opening doors more widely. Starting group activities again. Many training programs going on right now. Check the [website](#) for more info on trainings, job fair and more.

MassHire Franklin Hampshire: open by appointment. Also managing walk-ins (although not officially open). Same theme as MassHire Holyoke in not seeing huge demand on part of job seekers. Lots of training opportunities. Check out the [website](#) for more details.

GCC: Discussed Handshake platform -- number of employers using this platform has risen dramatically - now over 750,000. It is THE major vehicle for job searching for students. Hoping for more coordination with MassHires so that they can add their events to Handshake as well. MassHires will follow-up internally about this.

Way Finders: 147 participants enrolled in workforce development programs at Way Finders - placed 7 participants into employment last month. Office opened in mid-Feb. - now starting to schedule in-person appointments. Doing referrals to MassHires, HCC and more.

Springfield Works - continuing discussion of the "whole family, two-generational approach" to employment and training that is underway in a couple of housing developments as a pilot approach. Very interested in building collaborations with this model. Stay tuned for further discussion and outreach.

Network announcements:

Be sure to [register for the Network annual event](#) on 5/6.

The Network introduced its [FY23 budget priorities](#) at a meeting with Western MA legislators last week. It also provided an update to its [legislative priorities](#).

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Next meeting date: 5/18, 9 am