

Career Services Meeting Minutes - 5/31

In attendance: Bud Delphin, MassHire Holyoke, Shannon Doran, GCC, Maura Geary, Drew Kott, MHA, Madeline Martinez, Way Finders, Maureen McLaughlin, BCC, Jasmin Rojas, Way Finders, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Pamela Wojtkowski, MassHire Berkshires

Updates:

MassHire Franklin Hampshire - just moved offices to Greenfield Corporate Center at 101 Munson Street in Greenfield. Customers will start to be seen there tomorrow!

MassHire Holyoke

- also in moving transition from 850 High Street to 208 Race Street - doing it in phases - will be operating out of a couple of locations for a while.
- Good Food Good Jobs - jobs fair on June 22 at Heritage State Park
- Trainings continue to be available - see all resources here: <https://masshireholyokey.org/>

Holyoke Community College

- served 351 people last year with free job training; so far 100 placed into jobs; hoping to increase that momentum
- Learn more on free job training available for the summer [here](#)
- Transition to college and career program for adult learners: [learn more here](#)

Greenfield Community College

- hired new internship/experiential learning coordinator
- career services continuing to use Hand Shake for the job board - 400-600 jobs within 50 miles of GCC to consider
- Fall 2023 - offering CNA/HHA and other training programs
- "Second Chances: Building Recovery-Friendly Workplaces in Franklin County and the North Quabbin" on June 9, 2023, from 10 AM - 12 Noon. You can register for this free event here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/second-chances-building-recovery-friendly-workplaces-tickets-634967102697>
- GCC WFD is officially launching its free Para Educator Training Program for regional adult job seekers this summer, starting on July 10th and ending on August 17th! This training will prepare students to take the Para Pro certification exam. They will be awarded a Certificate of Completion from GCC. --- Anyone interested in learning more should contact Alex Carley (carleya@gcc.mass.edu). --- Fill out this intake form to schedule an interview: <https://forms.gle/Jkkbi3UeD5hZf3jj8>
- continuing work on the ARISE grant, designed to get people whose educational and work lives have been disrupted back into work/school. Contact Judy Raper with questions, raper@gcc.mass.edu.

Berkshire Community College/MassHire Berkshire County

- Offers career coaching and exploration
- Handshake in use
- Workforce development: phlebotomy, medical interpreter, community health worker; culinary readiness program
- \$50,000 investment in upgrading IT lab
- Coordinating a Berkshire County CORI friendly job and resource fair - in collaboration with MassHire and others - late September - will offer workshops for employers and job seekers
- conducting focus groups to talk about services industry challenges re: lack of housing, transportation; will synthesize and issue report

MassHire Berkshire

- applying for opioid grant to assist people in recovery and offer training and employment assistance
- different CNA trainings
- taking applications for summer Youth works programs - over 160 students up to age 25 - 4 different tiers - work readiness, paid jobs, different career paths - see all resources here: <https://www.masshireberkshireecc.com/>

MassHire Springfield

- many training programs available - filling positions is a challenge
- held a job training last week, 55 ERS, 256 job seekers
- see resources here: <https://masshirespringfield.org/>

Way Finders

- just resubmitted application for Secure Jobs (every 5 years) - in that process noted the lack of referrals from Hampshire County and Berkshire County - taking steps to increase outreach; emphasizing the unique resource of flex funds to address myriad obstacles to work.
- Noted the great partnership with MHA

Mental Health Association - new employment services program, developing new partnerships, all connected to getting and sustaining housing.

Other topics discussed:

- Seeing increase in immigrants who would like to work but do not have the papers they need to work while at the same time they are required to work...a catch-22. Any guidance is welcome!
- Also looking to increase understanding of available resources to assist immigrants as they make their transition to living here - reaching out to Center for New Americans and other organizations

- Discussed the need to improve the system to obtain employment outcome data - a top MassHire legislative priority is data matching so that the state provides the data they need to report on the outcomes everyone wants - need to take the burden off of state colleges to produce the data without sufficient state support

Network Announcements

- The State Senate passed its FY24 budget - some good investments in housing and homelessness programs (and need much more) - read about it [here](#)
- Progressive Democrats of MA is sponsoring a forum on "tackling the housing crisis" on June 9 with Senator Lydia Edwards and Keith Fairey, President and CEO of Way Finders - [read more and register here](#)
- The Network's annual event was a great success - over 150 people gathered - read all about it [here](#)

Next meeting date: September 13, 11 am

Pamela Schwartz, Director
Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness