

## **Career Services Meeting Minutes - 6/15/26**

*In attendance: Brunilda Aponte, Way Finders, Linda Candage, VA, Meghan Donnelly, BCC, Shannon Doran, GCC, Jeff Hayden, HCC, Ben Ostiguy, HCC, Cindy Ray, MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center, Kate Smith, MassHire Holyoke, Mark Watkins, Gandara Center, Pamela Wojtkowski, MassHire Berkshire*

### **Greenfield Community College:**

Slots are available at upcoming trainings:

- [Para Educator Training](#)
- [CNA Training](#)

Shannon at GCC:

- noted 413Cares does not have a workforce development "tile" on the home page - anyone with contacts there to suggest an addition?
- looking to update their employer data base - invites sharing of resources
- offering an interview readiness program for students

### **MassHire Franklin Hampshire:**

- Career searching for early job seekers: [go here](#)
- Collaboration with Franklin Tech on welding and metal fabrication: [go here](#)
- Multi-industry job fair coming on 7/29

### **MassHire Berkshire**

- early education apprenticeship program - starting soon
- starting a program to learn admin with a focus on medical terminology need (responding to health care providers' needs)

### **Holyoke Community College:**

Upcoming trainings here:

[Core programs](#)

[Free job training programs](#)

[ESOL classes for employment](#)

Recruitment happening for all trainings.

### **MassHire Holyoke:**

- Holyoke Opioid funds awarded to MassHire Holyoke - working with Mass Development and One Holyoke on job readiness training and other trainings

### **VA Employment:**

Running a community employment resource group - 2nd Friday every month - in partnership with MassHire, MassAbility, Voc Rehab - they meet with a veteran individually to determine what they need to get back to work. Starting a group in Pittsfield next month.

### **Berkshire Community College:**

- Received a \$735K state grant for workforce development - focused on health care and advanced manufacturing
- Also running CDL program - health care and advanced manufacturing

### **Way Finders:**

Planning next job fair in September. Last fair in April very successful - got 6 people employed. 186 families being served in employment support program (Secure Jobs, CEIS, SNAP/DTA).

**Springfield Works** - recruiting for 2nd cohort for Bridge to Prosperity Cliff Program bridge to prosperity cliff program; supporting people with cash and financial counseling; addressing economic mobility challenge in the face of losing benefits as income rises. Recruiting 10 in western MA, 10 in Worcester, 10 in Boston, and then will add one more cohort shortly thereafter. Continuing to recruit for other job training programs, working closely with HCC.

HCC Thrive Center - supporting people through underemployment, distributed 24,000 pounds of food to students

### **Network updates:**

- **The Network's Annual Gathering on 5/29 was a great success** - 125 people in person, 45 on zoom; many state legislators and mayors and state officials; compelling speeches, good media coverage - you can [check it all out here](#)
- **The FY27 state budget** is in the Conference Committee where the differences between the House and Senate budget are resolved. This is a time to push for the highest possible funding for our key programs. [Go here](#) to take quick action.
- **Stop HUD's undoing of the Equal Access Rule - comments are due by June 29.** HUD's proposal would require shelter placements based on biological sex instead of gender identity and permit requirements of "proof" of gender. State and nationwide organizing is underway to generate as many comments as possible (comments slow down the process of enactment). [Go here](#) to learn how to comment by June 29. **Please add your voice!**

**Next meeting date - Tuesday, September 22, 11 am**