



**Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday, March 11, 2021**  
**Via: Zoom (remote platform)**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?z=Z0rf-qrgz4iH9U94XK8EFd\\_A82tFgf0LedK](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?z=Z0rf-qrgz4iH9U94XK8EFd_A82tFgf0LedK)



	R. Adams	✓	C. Hollaway	✓	B. Morrison		Staff:
✓	J. Brosnan	*	B. House	✓	B. Petropulos	✓	H. Boulger
✓	J. Burke	✓	A. Ingegneri	*	R. Recker	✓	K. Toomey
	J. Butler	✓	R. Keegan	✓	E. Sheridan	✓	H. Williams
✓	B. Chaput	✓	E. Kennedy	*	M. Taylor	✓	S. Zayac
✓	E. Dellea	✓	S. Kinzle	✓	C. Tyer	✓	S. Milano
✓	B. DiTomasso	*	B. Lepicier	✓	B. Waterman		Guests:
✓	D. Evans	✓	J. Lipa			✓	T. Cappadona, BWB intern
✓	P. Gage	✓	J. Lowenstein			✓	S. Flynn, T. Romeo, D. Korte
*	T. Gage	✓	D. McNally			✓	W. Conklin
✓	L. Harrison	*	K. Messina		*excused absence		

*Attendees*

**Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and Governor’s Order of limiting meetings of more than 10 people:**

*Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 23 and 31, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Berkshire Workforce Board will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Berkshire Workforce Board’s website, at <http://www.masshireberkshire.com>. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: Zoom video conference call. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Berkshire Workforce Board website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting. This meeting will be recorded and a roll call was conducted via Zoom Chat.*

**Call to Order:**

President Eva Sheridan opened the meeting at 8:02AM by welcoming everyone to the remote meeting and assuring a quorum.

**I. Consent Agenda**

President Sheridan asked if there were any agenda items that needed to be removed from the consent agenda.

- 1. Recommendation to approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2020 Board of Director meeting.*
- 2. Recommendation to approve the YTD FY2021 Financial Statement reflecting \$444,339 income; \$419,549 expenses; showing net surplus of \$68,790. There is \$63K in checking; \$78K in money market; and \$548 in savings.*

3. *Recommendation to approve 1 program from 1 vendor on the Individual Training Account list.*
4. *Recommendation to approve a 6% Defined Contribution totaling \$14,326 to the 4 participating employees.*
5. *Recommendation to approve the MassHire Berkshire Career Center Report through 1/31/21 serving 289 employers and 1,441 job seekers.*

*A motion was made by Bonny DiTomasso to approve the consent agenda items, seconded by Ellen Kennedy, and the motion carried.*

## **II. Announcements/Communications**

- *Annual Board meeting – June 10th, 2021 at 8AM*
  - *Executive Committee – April 14th at 8AM*
  - *WIOA Partner – April 27th at 1PM*
  - *Berkshire Skills Cabinet – May 11th at 11AM*
  - *Evaluation Committee – May 20th at 8AM*
  - *Youth Council – April 1st at 9AM*
  - *Workforce Board & Career Center Certification – April 5-9th*
- ▶ Thank you from Taconic High School’s Allied Health participants for purchasing their scrubs
  - ▶ Thank you from Berkshire Innovation Center for sponsoring BeTA student
  - ▶ Thank you from Mt. Everett Counselor for supporting an educational internship that will make a significant difference in a young woman’s life.

## **III. New Business**

**FY22 Nomination Committee** – On behalf of the Nomination Committee, Ellen Kennedy reported that we are seeking officer nominations for FY22 including president; 2 vice presidents; secretary, treasurer, Youth Council Chair, and at-large. Private sector leaders must serve as president and 1 vice president. Nomination forms will be emailed and are due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Berkshire Workforce Board Interns** – Kat Toomey noted that we have 2 high school interns (Nick a junior at Taconic and Talia a senior at Mt. Greylock) who will be working on local/state labor market research, general support of connecting activities, social media enhancing, supporting virtual career event, video editing and resource mapping. Kat read a statement from Nick, and Talia highlighted her work, what she has learned, how valuable this experience has been, and answered questions. Discussion ensued about the importance of connecting young people to these opportunities and to potentially have a young person serve on the board. Doug McNally noted that the Youth Council has youth as part of their meetings.

The **Executive Director** provided an update of activities since the December meeting:

- Assisted 68 companies in FY21; Career Center assisted 1,441 customers and 289 employers
- Rapid response assisting 11 companies impacting 700+ workers
- Berkshire Workforce Board has received \$250K in new funding for youth and training
- Presented the FY22 Governor’s budget reflecting support for workforce initiatives
- Highlighted the advocacy and support of Representative Pignatelli

The **Youth Director** provided an update of activities:

- 136 internships / structured work experiences (28 STEM, 11 Building Trades / Manufacturing, 2 Healthcare, 6 Hospitality)
- 7 Career Awareness activities – 83 students / 29 Employers
- 12 Career Exploration activities – 372 students / 25 Employers
- Additional **CA funds (\$114K)** – supporting career pathway development (S. County) and College & Career Team development / career readiness activity expansion at Wahconah & Mt.

Greylock, additional district CR projects, employer engagement and staff support in mentoring other WIBs

- High School Secondary Education Internship Program grant HSSEIP - 11 seniors (2 Drury, 3 Hoosac, 4 Monument & 2 Mt. Everett) in educational internships (state covid relief funds)
- **Additional Activities:** Mt Greylock Virtual Career Fair, Wahconah's upcoming Virtual Job Shadow / Resume Writing Sessions, PPS developing Career Teams and experiences for non-CVTE students, Hoosac, Lee – planning virtual interviews & career events in Spring, College & Career Teams thriving, upcoming SEL PD
- Virtual Career Readiness event happening April 26 – 30, 2021; support through Berkshire Compact
- Focused industry sector each day: Healthcare/Human Services, Hospitality / Arts, Building Trades / Manufacturing, STEM, Education & Public Service. Targeted grades 10-12; students will choose a session to participate in. Sessions (A.M.) will feature a keynote, employer presentation and debrief/wrap-up (max 90 minutes), Pre-recorded Online Library via PCTV
- Career Center Job Fair – Tuesday, April 27 11AM – 4PM; youth friendly jobs/internships available! North County Hybrid Gardening program (\$2,500 / youth); \$2k from First Congregational Church; Applied / Requests to Mountain One, Guardian, Greylock, Adams Community Bank; goal 8-12 participants. *Seeking additional sponsorships!*
- **MA STEM@Work: Paid STEM internships** – regional, 15 youth – *seeking STEM companies!*
- **Pittsfield Summer Youth Works Program** – Career Center; \$235,500 for approx. 30 youth; virtual tiered project-based learning and career exploration
- Arts/Cultural experiences - \$5k from BTCF

**Manufacturing Training** – Sara Milano provided an update of activities:

**2021 EOHEE Funded Advanced Manufacturing Skills Grant** - \$178k funding - October 2020 – June 2021

- In coordination with McCann Technical and Berkshire Community College 4 trainings are planned
- In-person Advanced Manufacturing training cohort at McCann Technical began February 13
  - 6 Participants
  - 96 hours of training
- On-line Advanced Manufacturing Training cohort in coordination with BCC and ToolingU began March 8
  - 4 participants
  - 30 hours of training
  - On-going enrollment
- In-person Welding Training cohort at McCann Technical will begin April 5
  - Recruitment underway for 8 trainees
- In-person Hoisting Training in coordination with BCC and CRANE101 to be scheduled in Spring 2021.

**2021 MassBridge**

- Bridging the gap in Manufacturing Technician Training (Career Pathways)
- Increase awareness & excitement about careers, technologies & applications in manufacturing
- March 4<sup>th</sup> Training Innovation forum
- Building Road Map

**MakeitInMassachusetts.com** May 2021 looking for 2-3 Berkshire companies to showcase their products in a video

**Healthcare Training Initiatives** – Shannon Zayac provided an update of activities:

**Berkshire Nursing Assistant Program** – funded through WCTF until September 2021.

- Completed 2-day programs and 1 online with 21 completions
- March 15<sup>th</sup> for another day course and March 21<sup>st</sup> of online

**Red Cross Testing for Certified Nursing Assistants** – Testing starting at Berkshire Community College

Berkshire Healthcare Hub Grant – planning phase ends March 31<sup>st</sup>. Applying for approval for implementation phase to include expanded CNA training in north county and support of new programs (possibly community health worker and medical assistants) and marketing.

#### **IV. Special Recognition**

Heather Williams provided recognition to the Southern Berkshire College/Career Team for their continued expansion of career pathway and career readiness programming for youth. Honorees included: Will Conklin from Greenagers; Sean Flynn from Monument Mountain RHS; Daniel Korte from Lee HS; and Tara Romeo from Lenox HS. They will be presented with a certificate and gift card and featured in Berkshire Trade & Commerce. Sean noted the strong support and collaboration from the BWB.

#### **V. Strategic Discussion**

Board members shared a variety of workforce items.

- The December 2020 UI rate was 7.8%; January figures are expected next week
- Job Quest reflects more than 2,000 job openings
- MassHire System working on Road to Reemployment to help job seekers return to work and to help companies obtain a workforce
- Minimum wage increased 1/1/21 to \$13.50/hour
- The impact of Education Commissioner wanting K-5 to return to in-person by April 5<sup>th</sup> and the impact on the economy
- Difficulty finding employees
- Educational leaders are finding success in recruiting from outside the region for positions
- Realtors are finding it challenging to find housing in the Berkshires; Contractors have been busy!
- USA Today article about top 5 regions for growth includes Pittsfield as #4!
- Local DTA services and numbers were provided
- MRC has moved to 160 North Street and are collocated with DTA and in the same building as MassHire.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Eva Sheridan noted that the next meeting of the full Board of Directors will be June 10, 2021 *With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Doug McNally, seconded by John Lipa, and unanimously approved.* Meeting closed at 9:02AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chelsea Tyer, Secretary  
HPB