

# Metro North Regional Employment Board Quarterly Member Meeting

December 6, 2017

8:00-10:00am

**Metro North REB, 186 Alewife Brook Parkway, Suite 216, Cambridge, MA**

**Present:** Sandra Smith (Chair), Lisa Amaya Price (Vice Chair), Rosemary Alexander, Allen Boyer, Reed Brockman, Carson Burrington, Michael Cosgrove, Richard Dalton, Debra Jacobson, Danny LeBlanc, Rick Laferriere, Brian Murray, Sue Walsh, Valerie Sutton, Steven Sullivan, Nancy Conti, Russette Lyons

**Absent:** Robert Jones, Mary Tighe, Madeline Hoffman, Antonio de la Serna, James Donovan, Kambiz Maali, Karen Sampson-Johnson

**REB Staff:** Sunny Schwartz, Tom Hanna, Chris Albrizio-Lee, Lee-Ann Johnson, Ben Christensen, Lisa Taylor-Montminy, Yuqing Lu, Dwayne Hull, Melora Rush

**Guests:** Mayor Brian Arrigo of Revere and Mayor Gary Christenson of Malden

## MINUTES

Agenda Topics	Major Discussion Points	Next Steps (Who, what, by when)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandra Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:09am.</li> </ul>	
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair welcomed REB Members and Staff.</li> <li>• The Chair introduced Alice Murillo as a new REB Member, filling the required Higher Education position.</li> <li>• Lisa Taylor-Montminy who joined the REB staff in October as Manager of Youth Programs</li> <li>• The Chair made the following announcements:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Janice Philpot is the new Career Center System Manager at The WorkPlace. She resigned from the REB effective October 2017.</li> <li>○ The ABE slot has been filled by a new REB Member, Maria Kefallinou, who was unable to attend the meeting today.</li> <li>○ Madeline Hoffman resigned from the REB.</li> <li>○ Please refer potential new REB Members to Sunny.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Review and Approval of September Meeting Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair stated that the minutes from the September 19, 2017 REB meeting were sent out last week and also are in the meeting packet following the Agenda under Tab 1.</li> <li>• The Chair asked for any questions or comments regarding the Minutes from the September 19, 2017 REB Meeting. There being no questions or comments, Sandra requested a motion to approve the minutes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the September 19, 2017 REB Annual/Quarterly Meeting were unanimously approved as presented.</li> </ul>	
<b>REB Case Statement/Vision and Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chris Albrizio-Lee presented detailed demographic data on residents and businesses in our region with the goals of defining the REB’s future vision and developing a Case Statement.</li> <li>● Small group discussions were facilitated by REB Staff.</li> <li>● A Development Task Force was created. Steve Sullivan and Reed Brockman volunteered to participate and staff was asked to reach out to Carson Burrington to request his participation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Melora</b> will schedule a Development Task force meeting and <b>Sunny</b> will reach out to Carson Burrington to see if he would like to participate.</li> <li>● <b>REB staff</b> will present the major takeaways from the small group discussions at the March REB Meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Career Center Transition Report and Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Highlights</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The career centers are almost fully staffed; the goal is 44 employees.</li> <li>○ The Career Center staff has participated in many internal trainings, as well as external staff training by DCS.</li> <li>○ The Career Center management team visited The WorkPlace in CT.</li> <li>○ DCS is pleased with the transition to The WorkPlace as operator of the career centers.</li> <li>○ The Career Centers are adding more services.</li> <li>○ The Career Centers will be closed on 12/14 and 12/26 for training.</li> <li>○ Q: Has there been any feedback on community partners? On the listening tours? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MOU partners met with TWP as a group, TWP will be holding individual meetings with MOU partners as well to strengthen relationships.</li> <li>▪ TWP is working on proposals for Fee Income and Access Points for January.</li> <li>▪ Fee Income is being considered.</li> <li>▪ TWP will schedule Listening Tours.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>
<b>REB Major Activities Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Highlights</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The REB’s goal is to be at the forefront of job development for the Everett Casino.</li> <li>○ Sunny testified re use of funds from Gaming Commission Grant.</li> <li>○ We are applying for the next round of grant funding with the Mass Gaming Commission and we are reaching out to cities for matching funds.</li> <li>○ Somerville is the second city in country to have created a jobs linkage fund tied to commercial development. The rate is to be determined. Sunny testified in favor of the linkage.</li> <li>○ The REB’s pilot of the Employment Retention Project was so successful that the funder wants to take it statewide with the REB doing technical assistance.</li> <li>○ Advanced Manufacturing – The REB is getting grant form EOHED for third year in a row. NAMC is taking the Center for Manufacturing Technology in Woburn and the E-Team in Lynn under its umbrella. CNC Machining and Welding training programs will begin in 2018.</li> <li>○ Manufacturing apprentices are moving along – potential of 27 apprentices.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Retail training program for incumbent workers is starting with CVS and Bunker Hill</li> <li>○ The REB is talking to Walmart about continued funding for retail training of incumbent retail workers.</li> <li>○ Grant report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The REB will be taking over the administration of the National Dislocated Worker Grant.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Benchmarking Chart</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An updated benchmarking chart was given to Members. This documents the REB’s progress on its 5 year strategic plan to date outlining where the REB is on specific action steps related to achieving the strategic plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Statewide View on Workforce Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valerie Sutton reported on the Massachusetts Workforce Board Quarterly Meeting and Annual Skills and Jobs Summit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ J.D. LaRock is the new director of Commonwealth Corporation.</li> <li>○ Rosalyn Acosta, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development believes that only 1/3 of future workers need a bachelor’s degree and that there should be a continued focus on apprenticeship programs.</li> <li>○ There will be a vote in March 2018 to adopt the name MassHire to unify the branding of the MA workforce system.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion of region’s workforce priorities with Mayor Arrigo of Revere and Mayor Christenson of Malden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Brian Arrigo of Revere spoke to the Members about workforce needs in his community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mayor Arrigo spoke about how housing and affordability ties into workforce development.</li> <li>○ The community is thinking about how to use its many properties that are under-utilized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Necco candy site is being re-zoned to be home to advanced manufacturing, robotics and biotech companies.</li> <li>▪ Revere submitted a proposal to Amazon to locate its second headquarters on the 40 acre Suffolk Downs property.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ There is room for transformational growth, and there is now an opportunity to reimagine working and living in Revere - to have people who live in Revere be able to work in Revere.</li> <li>○ Revere needs to look at how its school district is set up for future opportunities; how to prepare the population; and how to project a vision to community.</li> <li>○ Revere is looking to partner with the REB.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mayor Gary Christenson of Malden spoke to the Members about workforce needs in his community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Summer Youthworks program is important for Malden’s youth and families.</li> <li>○ The Mayor would like a career center located in Malden to ease access to career center services for Malden residents.</li> <li>○ The Mayor urged the REB and the Career Centers to outreach in as many different languages as possible to meet community needs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is time frame on Amazon?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mayor Arrigo thinks short list coming out early next year.</li> <li>○ What are the Mayors' thoughts on transportation challenges? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mayor Arrigo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There will not be transportation investment without guaranteed investments/economic development.</li> <li>▪ Revere is looking for investment on a Commuter Rail intersecting the Necco and Dog Track sites</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Mayor Christenson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Malden has a major bus hub which is key to helping residents. He continues to advocate for improvement with the T.</li> <li>▪ He would like to shore up current service before expanded into new service. Transit oriented development will not work unless the investment happens.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ If a Career Center was located in Malden or Revere, what would they like to see? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mayor Christenson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A One stop shop that is accessible, with needed languages spoken. Malden has space available and would help with it financially if possible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Is there a particular population to focus on? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mayor Arrigo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People in poverty and immigrants. There is a lack of infrastructure to support immigrants. Revere also needs to prepare its schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Mayor Christenson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As Malden works to help families and to provide wrap around support services for immigrants, the REB is needed to complement with job services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ How is the younger population who are graduating (16-24yo) doing? Are they staying/leaving? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mayor Arrigo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youth are sticking around more. Affordability is barrier to coming back, they often live with their parents.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Mayor Christenson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is hard to keep the kids there. He wants the REB's support so that kids can know their options.</li> <li>▪ Language barrier is an issue for broad outreach to families.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Other business as may come before the Quarterly REB Meeting</b>	•	•
<b>Upcoming Meetings</b>	• Sandra Smith referred Members to TAB 8 in the meeting packet which lists the upcoming REB meetings for FY18.	•

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday, March 7, 2018</li> <li>• Tuesday, June 19, 2018 (Annual Meeting)</li> </ul>	
<b>Adjourn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was adjourned at 10a.m., followed by the REB Holiday Party.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documents used at December 6, 2017 REB Quarterly Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda</li> <li>• New REB Member Bios</li> <li>• Data to Inform Case Statement</li> <li>• September 2017 Meeting Minutes</li> <li>• Draft Proposed Strategic Future Investments</li> <li>• REB Major Activities Report</li> <li>• Grants List</li> <li>• Benchmarking Chart</li> <li>• Committee Reports: Workforce Systems Committee ,Finance Committee, Youth Council, and STEM Leadership</li> <li>• List of FY18 REB Meeting Dates</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	