



FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE WORKFORCE BOARD

101 Munson Street, Suite 210
Greenfield, MA 01301
413.773.1835

MassHire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board

Minutes of June 5, 2025 via Zoom

1:05 PM to 2:15 PM

(Approved by Board 9/18/25)

Board Members in Attendance:

Neil Scanlon (Board Chair)

Allison van der Velden (Board 1st Vice Chair)

Vyeluv "Mpress" Nembhard

Sue Surner

Andrea Bordenca

Jeff Napolitano

Colleen Kucinski

Laurie Millman

Kristin Cole

Libby Hernandez

Sarah Sargent

Brenda Evans

John Waite

Alan Wolf

Mayor Sciarra

Board Members not in Attendance:

Shardool Parmar

Brian Pearson

Paula Euber

Alex Colonna

Clare Higgins

Deborah Christakos

Andrew Linkenholder

Ashley McFarlane

Jessye Deane

MassHire Staff in Attendance:

Sarah Wilson

Laura Whittier

Savannah Baldwin

Laura Robinson

Maura Geary

Cindy Ray

Cathy Zatyryka

Taluja Thigale

Matt Allen

Aaron Kropf

Zach Podhorzer

Jon Frodema

Others in Attendance:

Erin Anhalt

Justin Lawrence

Sam Wood

Briana Drohen

Sid Nordstrom

Agenda Items I: Welcome & Call to Order

Board Chair Neil Scanlon called the meeting to order and called for vote on March meeting minutes.

Motion: To approve the March 6, 2025 FHWB Meeting Minutes by Allison van der Velden,
seconded by Kristin Cole.

Vote: Unanimous. No discussion followed.

Executive Director Sarah Wilson welcomed attendees, expressing gratitude to long-time partners, new members, and all who have contributed to the Board's mission. She highlighted the past year's focus on connection, alignment, and momentum across Franklin and Hampshire counties. Key efforts included launching the Outdoor Recreation Industry Collaborative, strengthening employer partnerships in healthcare and manufacturing, and supporting youth through WIOA, YouthWorks, and Connecting

Activities programs. Sarah also emphasized the Board's ongoing commitment to innovation, equity, and responsiveness.

Agenda Item II: Workforce Development Leadership Awards

Presenters: Sarah Wilson and Maura Geary

Workforce Board Award: LaunchSpace, Inc.

LaunchSpace was honored for its innovative Creative Sector Pathway program for WIOA Youth. The program offers hands-on skill-building in fields like graphic design, laser cutting, and small business branding, while fostering community, agency, and entrepreneurial thinking among youth facing barriers to employment.

Career Center Award: Behavioral Health Network

Behavioral Health Network was honored for its partnership with GCC to pilot a paid Behavioral Health Associate training model. By compensating participants for their training time, BHN addressed key barriers to recruitment and retention in the behavioral health field, resulting in stronger job placements and higher retention. Their leadership has inspired other employers to adopt this innovative approach, strengthening the regional workforce.

Agenda Item III: FY26 Proposed Meetings Calendar

Presenters: Sarah Wilson and Neil Scanlon

Sarah introduced the proposed FY26 Board meeting schedule, noting key updates, including:

- Addition of a Finance Committee meeting
- A staggered calendar for full Board and Executive Committee meetings

Chair Neil Scanlon invited a motion to approve the schedule.

- Motion: Allison van der Velden
- Second: Kristin Cole
- Vote: Approved unanimously

Agenda Item IV: Election of FHWB Officers

Presenter: Sarah Wilson

Sarah presented the slate of officer nominations for FY26:

- Chair: Allison van der Velden
- Vice Chair: Kristin Cole
- Second Vice Chair: Sue Surner

Neil opened the floor for additional nominations; hearing none, he requested a motion to approve the slate.

- Motion: Alan Wolf
- Second: Sarah Sargent
- Vote: Approved unanimously

Agenda Item V: Board Member Recognition

Sarah Wilson recognized outgoing Board members for their service and impact:

- Missy Eaton
- Mark Dore
- Cindy Peeters
- Clare Higgins
- John Waite

Agenda Item VI: New Member Spotlights

Presenter: Sarah Wilson

Sarah introduced and welcomed the following new Board members:

- Kristin Cole
- Paula Euber
- Andrea Bordenca
- Brian Pearson
- Libby Hernandez
- Sarah Sargent
- Deborah Christakos
- Jessye Deane

Agenda Item VII: Staff Highlights

Sarah opened the floor to celebrate the efforts of Board and Career Center staff:

- Connecting Activities Team: Presented by Matt Allen, Aaron Kropf, and Laura Robinson
- YouthWorks Program: Presented by Cathy Zatyryka
- Young Adult Programs: Presented by Zach Podhorzer
- Business Services: Presented by Jon Frodema
- Workshop Team: Presented by Tulaja Thigale

Agenda Item VIII: Other Business

Chari Neil Scanlon opened the floor for other business. No new business was introduced.

Agenda Item IX: Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn by John Waite, seconded by Allison van der Velden.

Vote: Unanimous. No discussion followed.