



## Massachusetts Workforce Association Governance Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 11, 2021

### Notes

*In attendance: Sheila Sullivan-Jardim, Shannon Norton, Maddrey Goode, Valerie Sutton, Tonja Mettlach, Raija Vaisanen*

#### **MWA conversations with DEI consultants update**

- Raija recapped the DEI discussions at the last MWA board meeting in December.
- Raija and Tonja also updated the committee on the consultants we reconnected with over the past month. MWA is in a particular situation where we are a small staff and our budget is small. We will have to figure out how to access quality training/consultants within our budget and size. We talked to All Aces about the possibility of partnering up with other small nonprofits for this work.
- Raija also updated the committee on two MassHire committees MWA is participating in:
  - SPAC DEI committee (MWA is participating). This committee is made up of agency heads from all the WIOA partners. Raija gave an update on how this committee work is going.
  - MassHire DEI committee (MWA is participating). This committee has representatives from career centers and workforce boards and is centered around what MassHire is going to do in this space. There is currently an effort to put out an RFP for consultant services to support this.
- In addition, MWA is also starting to put out a string of workshops/webinars that we hope will intersect with our DEI work.
- Questions -
  - Intentionally setting up groups that are diverse with different types of positions but ways to share out what different areas are doing.
  - Level setting is helpful. Maddrey talked a bit about what he learned through our upcoming job quality webinar prep and how he is part of a Black Directors Network in Boston which he finds helpful.
  - Affinity groups may not always be useful, depending on the organization and how they are run.
  - We do not need to be all things to all people on racial justice issues - we need to focus on workforce development, anti-poverty, etc.

#### **2021 Board Recruitment**

- There are two seats we will prioritize filing by the June Annual Meeting
  - Chris Kealey, businesses association seat

- Suzanne Fernandes, private sector seat (will need new Treasurer)
- Sheila sent over one recommendation-
  - Chris Cooney - Metro South Chamber of Commerce, good candidate, has served on the state board.
- Action Items:
  - We would really appreciate nominations from board members and members of this committee. You can find the nomination form and board member job description [here](#).

### **June MWA Annual Meeting**

- Looking to the committee for ideas for the June annual meeting. We are planning to hold a similar virtual event series as we did last year.
- The committee liked the idea of something more social being included. Valerie shared a good experience she had using [Airmeeet](#), or having different conversations facilitated in break out rooms. Sheila said she would report back after a Middleborough Chamber event she was attending.