

## Massachusetts Workforce Association Public Policy Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Notes -

### Participants:

- Participants: Ron Iacobucci, Ron Marlow, Joe Peters, Rebecca Bialecki, Raija Vaisanen, Kevin Lynn, Mary Sarris, Kathleen Weislein, Tonja Mettlach

### FY22 Budget Updates

- Tonja updated the committee on the House budget which was on day 2 of deliberations. So far the Labor and Economic Development amendments have not been taken up so she encouraged all to keep up outreach. It was a great first sign though that the House increased the career center line item from the Governor's proposal. Puts us in a better position going into the Senate budget.

### Public Policy Framework

- Tonja gave an update to the committee on the big policy areas that MWA was considering focusing on (see attached). We really want committee ideas and engagement about what we should focus on and what should/could be changed. Currently seems like too many areas of focus and potentially things could be combined.
- Mary - talked about the phrase "future of work" and how those three words end up being everything and nothing. The committee talked about maybe using a different phrase to get at what we are talking about.
- Ron M. - discussed combining innovation, workforce training and apprenticeship.
- Ron I. - discussed the UMass Lowell Professors who presented at the 2019 annual meeting and the work they are doing with dislocated workers on the future of work.
- Kevin - shared about how the system has been very innovative over the past year and hoping as things go "back to normal" that the innovation doesn't stop.
- Kathleen - talked about the services people will still need to get who cannot access them digitally and how potentially the second agenda item could stand on its own.
- Next Steps:
  - MWA to make some changes to the agenda and fill in with more detail so that members can better understand what falls under each category. We will send out the proposed draft agenda at least 2 weeks in advance of the next meeting.

### Issue Selection Discussion

- AVTE legislation (note the committee just began this conversation and then ran out of time so we will continue at our next meeting).
- Tonja shared MWA's issue selection document and went over how the committee can evaluate this legislation to determine if we should support it. There are also different levels of support once the committee decides if and when to support.
  - Mary shared that she found that it is very focused on high schools and totally misses the adult training that occurs at vocational-technical schools. She also shared the three types of voc-tech schools (local, regional and comprehensive). The legislation uses the term regional schools and it is unclear if it is using it to only talk about regional vocational schools or really wants to talk about any vocational schools and/or Ch.74 programs.



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- Next Steps:
  - At the May meeting we will continue reviewing the AVTE legislation and then review the teacher diversity legislation. MWA will look for clarification in the meantime on Mary's question.
  - In the meantime, committee members should reach out with any questions.