



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF APPRENTICE STANDARDS

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SECRETARY

LARA THOMAS  
DIRECTOR

**MASSACHUSETTS APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 24, 2024, 11:30 a.m.**  
**Remote via Microsoft Teams**

**Opening:**

The Apprenticeship Council meeting was called to order at 11:33 a.m. on June 24, 2024 via Microsoft Teams.

Present remotely via Microsoft Teams:

- Josh Cutler, Undersecretary, EOLWD
- Rick Carter, Training Director, Local 12
- Maryanne Ham, Executive Director, Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium (NAMC)
- Chaton Green, Business Agent, Greater Boston Business Trades Union
- Sue Mailman, Owner, Coghlin Electrical Contractors
- Aisha Necoechea, Executive Director, BEST Hospitality Training
- Christine Ortiz, Professor, MIT
- Jason Pacheco, Director, Workforce Planning, Baystate Health
- Jeff Saliba, Business Manager, Local #6

Other attendees:

- Bernard Treml, Regional Director, US Department of Labor

**Meeting:**

1. Welcome
  - Undersecretary Cutler welcomed new and returning members of the council.
2. Meeting called to order
  - Introduction of council members with brief backgrounds
  - Motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes was made by Undersecretary Cutler, seconded by Council Chair Rick Carter. The roll call was eight in favor, one abstention.
    - i. AYE - Rick Carter; AYE - Chaton Green; AYE - Sue Mailman; AYE - Christine Ortiz; AYE - Jeff Saliba; AYE - Maryanne Ham;

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ABSTAIN - Aisha Necoechea; AYE - Jason Pacheco; AYE - Josh Cutler

### 3. DAS Update Report

- Undersecretary Cutler introduced DAS staff members on the call from each team: Quality Assurance, Apprenticeship Liaison, Operations, Administration, and leadership.
- Rick Carter introduced the new DAS Director, Lara Thomas, who onboarded one week prior to the Apprenticeship Council meeting, and gave a brief biography. Lara thanked Rick and the DAS team for the welcome and said her plan for now is to absorb as much as she can in the onboarding process, as she is still in the “observation phase.” She has participated in meetings on marketing and the strategic plan development to learn as much as possible about the concrete steps DAS is taking to promote apprenticeships.
- Margaret Gilligan, DAS Deputy Director, provided an update on staffing and major initiatives: new AL team member joining in July; ongoing work with Public Consulting Group (PCG) on the DAS 5-year strategic plan, whose final draft is due this week, and with TSM Design on sales and marketing designs for branding and a sales toolkit; refining how grants are monitored through USDOL and the QA team. Upcoming events include National Disability Employment Awareness month, for which one of our former participants was selected to be in a video.
- Dennis Collins, Apprenticeship Liaison Ambassador, gave an update on the team’s activities, including 740 1:1’s with Sponsors since the start of the year. He discussed that of 134 reviews of programs, 43 have been approved so far this year. This represents a significant increase over last year, which had a total of 30 approvals. The AL team, Operations, and Quality Assurance teams have attended over 30 events since the beginning of the year. Recently, team members toured MassBay Community College’s new campus and healthcare training wing, and the newly opened lab of TUV Rhienland in Boxborough. Undersecretary Cutler presented at the Massachusetts Workforce Association’s annual meeting.

### 4. Open Discussion

- Strategic Plan update
  - i. Some of the council members were contacted for feedback by the Strategic Plan vendor. Members of the council asked about timing to review the plan and it was agreed that a draft copy would be shared through the Chair, though it is not formally subject to approval of the council.

### 5. Upcoming meetings

- Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am – remote, to be held via Microsoft Teams.
- Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> – in person at Local 12 – the council will meet and take a tour of the facility, to coincide with the start of National Apprenticeship week.

### 6. New business

- Bernard Trembl of the USDOL provided the group with updates: IRS Final Rule came out last week; NPRM is with the solicitors and may be released very shortly; State Directors of SAA states gather regularly on a call, and Lara will join these meetings as of Friday.

7. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by Rick Carter, seconded by Jason Pacheco. Motion passes unanimously. Roll call:
  - i. AYE - Rick Carter; AYE - Chaton Green; AYE - Sue Mailman; AYE - Christine Ortiz; AYE - Jeff Saliba; AYE - Maryanne Ham; AYE - Aisha Necoechea; AYE - Jason Pacheco; AYE - Josh Cutler
- Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.