

Ulster County Workforce Development/Investment Board Minutes

July 12, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT – Michael Berg, Paul Cassel, Jeremy Ellenbogen, Frank Falatyn, James Ferraro, Robert Hirsch, Mary Jalloh, Thom Kleiner, Sean Mahoney, Tony Marmo, Heidi Rosborough, Todd Schmidt, Chris Marx

MEMBERS EXCUSED – Ellen Anderson, John Eickman, Tammy Gillon, Suzanne Holt, Jon Levin, Daniel O’Shea

MEMBERS ABSENT –

ALSO PRESENT – Lisa Berger, WIB Director; Cynthia Baran, OET Deputy Fiscal Director; Janet Rigaux, OET; Nancy Bell, DOL; Sarah Kramer-Harrison, OET; Michael Iapoce, DSS; Geddy Sveikauskas, Ulster Publishing

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Sean Mahoney, WIB Chair

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Sean Mahoney. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Tony Marmo to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2016 meeting, seconded by Todd Schmidt, and approved unanimously, without discussion or amendment.

3. Program Reports

- a. Summer Youth Employment Program 2016- Janet Rigaux, SYEP Director
239 youth applied for the program. Those found eligible went through a phone interview and (if deemed appropriate for placement) they were put through an orientation. Ultimately 140 were placed in 59 worksites. Five youth opted out within the first week. The OET seasonal staff helping Janet run the day to day operation is doing a great job. A discussion ensued around the increase in minimum wage and what kind of adjustments will need to be made moving forward.

4. WIB DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Lisa Berger, WIB Director

a. Consortium Agreement and Services MOU

Lisa shared that the consortium agreement went to the legislative committee and was present to the legislature for vote. After it was approved and submitted to the Department of Labor (DOL) we were informed that the template had changed. The change added breach language to the agreement. The agreement was sent back to us to include the aforementioned breach language. The agreement went back before the county attorney’s and with a few minor adjustment it was approved and it was resent to the DOL. The next step is to organize a meeting for all consortium members to sign the MOU.

b. **Dislocated Worker Definition Policy**

Under the WIOA regulations stated in 680.130, “Governors and Local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) may establish policies and procedures for one-stop centers to use in determining an individual’s eligibility as a dislocated worker.” This can be done by having the local Workforce Development Board define “attachment to the workforce.” The draft policy defines attachment to the workforce as: ***Employment with the same employer for at least six consecutive months, and with recent unemployment of a period of no longer than five years.*** This definition will increase the number of applicants that qualify to apply for some of the current Dislocated Worker Training CFA grants, and it will make it easier to train people receiving TANF/SafetNet benefits with the goal of transitioning off of services.

There have been 6 employers who have closed or given warn notices in the last 6 months, with the possibility of Stop and Shop in New Paltz adding to that list. We are looking at around 300 people who have been laid off with the potential for more. A discussion ensued regarding dislocated workers and whether those who work for a temp agency would qualify. A discussion ensued. Tony Marmo made a motion to approve the dislocated work policy as presented it was seconded by Michael Berg and it was approved unanimously.

c. **CFA Grants; SUNY Ulster Technology Grant; Jobs Waiting**

Lisa Berger presented on the **Jobs Waiting** program, which is a NEG grant that allows long-term unemployed (over 26 weeks) throughout the Hudson Valley to be trained in a wide variety of healthcare jobs. The 8 million dollar grant is being administered through Westchester County WDB. The grant needs the support of OET staff in the form of recruitment, job development and career coaching, therefore, Westchester County has agreed to pay Ulster County \$50,000 per year for the next three years provide Ulster County meets the grant benchmarks.

SUNY Ulster has a grant for careers in technology. They have contracted with us to help promote manufacturing as a career to the job seeking audience and OneStop customers, to promoting information sessions about careers in manufacturing and to help promote a Manufacturing Career Fair being held September 7 at the Best Western in Kingston. The contract is for \$20,000.

A discussion ensued around CFA grants for Workforce. There is a middle skills grant and a new worker grant that is available for businesses. If you need information or a letter of support we are happy to help in any way possible. A discussion ensued around incumbent worker training. We need to adopt some policies around incumbent worker training before Ulster County can move forward with using funds for this type of training. A discussion ensued around career pathways and how it is applied across areas of the government including public school, the OneStop, BOCES, SUNY Ulster and beyond.

d. **PY 16 Allocations Update**

Lisa Berger presented that there is no money coming back to the local WIB boards. The state is keeping the 15% reduction. There is a possibility that some of this money may be able to come back to the local level at some point, however, it is unclear as to how this would happen.

e. **WIOA Final Rules**

Lisa Berger shared the reference material provided to us by NYATEP. We have exactly one year to comply with all of these final rules and regulations. We have to be in compliance by July 1st of 2017.

One of the major pieces is OneStop procurement. Cindy Baran, the OneStop Operator is responsible for delivering that people have access to training program and literacy programs. Our performance has been exceptional apart from some regional goals that are low do to no fault of Ulster County. This means that the OneStop would have to be procured every 4 years. The local board and Michael Hein select who will run the OneStop. A discussion ensued around who the consortium includes. The WDB will issue the RFP through Lisa, in order to answer the RFP means that you have to be able to provide every piece of what OneStop is mandated to provide. Lisa will come up with milestone markers for the RFP process. The Executive Committee will need to meet fairly frequently to make sure that the RFP process meets the deadlines mandated by the law.

5. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn made by Mary Jalloh it was seconded by Robert Hirsch, the vote passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

NEXT W.I.B. MEETING
Tuesday, September 13th, 2016
3:30 PM
BRC ROOM 507-509