

COUNTY OF ULSTER

Workforce Development Board

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Ulster County Workforce Development Board Meeting September 13, 2022 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT – Tony Marmo, John Eickman, Don Lucarello, Don Mapes, Alejandro Cordova, Ashima Butler, Desiree Lyle, Frank Falatyn, Maura McMahon, Michael Berg, James Ferraro, Chris Marx, Tamika Dunkley

MEMBERS ABSENT - Angela Patella, Anthony Mignone, Brian Amthor, Coleen Macaluso, Jess Davis, Joe McDole, Mary O'Connell, Michael Iapoce, Nels Leader, Sean Mahoney, Tina Buono, William McKnight

ALSO PRESENT – Sharon Williams, OET Director/WDB Director, Faith Golden, OET Deputy Director, Renee Pugliese, OET, Christopher Kelly, Deputy County Executive, Steve Casa, Ulster BOCES

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm by Tony Marmo, WDB Chair. There was a quorum.

1. OPENING – TONY MARMO, BOARD CHAIR:

Tony welcomed everyone to the meeting; this is our first hybrid meeting. Tony welcomed new member Maura McMahon, Employment Manager at Mohonk Mountain House. Maura introduced herself and gave a history of her background and experience.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tony asked for a motion to approve minutes from June. Motion made by John Eickman, seconded by Alex Cordova. All in Favor. None opposed. Minutes approved.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT – FAITH GOLDEN, OET DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Faith presented the monthly financial update. Overall availability has increased by about 9% over the previous program year.

GVI funds will be available through March 2023, for young adult residents of Kingston and Ellenville.

4. APPROVAL OF PROGRAM YEAR BUDGET

Faith presented the budget for Program Year 2022. Overall the allocation increased by 9% over the previous program year. ER-NDWG funds are currently set to expire at the end of September 2022, but it is expected that date will be extended.

Tony requested a little description of each program to help Board members understand the components.

John Eickman asked about which funds carry forward from year to year.

Another question was asked regarding the number of job seekers requesting services from OET.

Tony asked for a motion to accept budget for the 2022-2023 year. Motion made by Don Mapes, seconded by Michael Berg. All in favor, motion passed.

We will pick a program next time we meet to explain and go over in more detail. Tony thanked everyone.

5. WORKFORCE SUMMIT RECAP

Tony said it was an excellent start to figure out next steps. We have an idea of where we want to go. The next meeting date has been scheduled for November 15, 2022. Place is to be determined. Five areas were identified as targets to do more work on:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Engaging Youth in Career Pathways
3. Engaging Historically Excluded Populations in the Workforce
4. Transitions from Public Assistance Benefits to Employment
5. Employer Investment in Upskilling & Retention

This is too much for one group to work on. There was a general consensus that this Board will work on engaging youth in career pathways and employer investment in upskilling/retention. We can also add other people from the community.

Tony said we will look at long term. Members may take on multi-year commitments. Tony asked if any questions or comments:

It was discussed that they did a good job of capturing the five initiatives at the workforce summit and that it is a great idea so we can identify and move forward. Also, so we can see how we can impact and see some progress.

The point was brought up that childcare issues are a major reason for the workforce issues. We need to deal with the childcare issues; employers can work on this.

All agreed that these are important issues and that everyone is seeing the housing issue. We may need wage increases to deal with the housing costs.

Youth education and the graduation rate was discussed; you can't start at the top, you have to work your way up and gain experience toward longevity and the end game.

The Committee reports are to be brought back to the Board.

The group also discussed that a key issue is transportation and that there is a decline in young people seeking their driver license.

A lot of these issues are age-old problems but some are outside of our immediate control. Tony stated that we can make recommendations to the officials. We are endorsing involvement in two areas.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT – Tony Marmo said we need to get together in person. Work on replenishment of the Board.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES – Frank Falatyn mentioned the strategic planning meeting immediately after the Summit. He spoke about marketing and clearing house/resource map.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT – John Eickman – Brochure shows benefits – develop new brochure and suggested to do short videos/testimonials.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT – Sharon spoke on behalf of Bill McKnight. They are thinking of having a youth summit.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – SHARON WILLIAMS, WDB Director

SYEP: OET's Summer Youth Employment Program had 128 youth experiences. This is about 20 more than last year. The program was very successful and had to end 3 days early due to the funds being exhausted. They have started conversations regarding what the County can do to extend the summer program. Fifteen of the youth were hired permanently.

Collaboration Update: We are constantly collaborating – civil service.
We are working with C3 learning.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN

All future meetings will return to the 3:30 PM time and we will continue the hybrid meetings. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

**ULSTER COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, November 10, 2022
3:30 PM**