

# COUNTY OF ULSTER

## Workforce Development Board

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Sharon Williams, Director

### Ulster County Workforce Development Board Meeting (via Zoom)

February 8, 2022

#### Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Tony Marmo, Ward Todd, Angela Patella, Frank Falatyn, Desiree Lyle, Chris Marx, James Ferraro, Tamika Dunkley, Mike Iapocce, Anthony Mignone, John Eickman, Don Lucarello, Tina Buono, Steve Casa, Don Mapes, Gene Knudsen

**MEMBERS ABSENT** - Heidi Rosborough, Michael Berg, Shawn Clark, Nels Leader, Sean Mahoney

**ALSO PRESENT** – Sharon Williams, OET Director/WDB Director, Faith Golden, OET Deputy Director, Renee Pugliese, OET, Samuel Sonenberg, Comptroller's Office

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 pm by Tony Marmo WDB Chair. There was a quorum.

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

Tony Marmo welcomed Sharon as the new Director of Office of Employment and Training and Renee as Administrative Aide in Office of Employment and Training. The Board is very happy to have Sharon in this role on the Board.

Sharon gave a brief history of her work experience and stated she has many years of development of others and preparing people for the workforce. We will do good work together.

Renee introduced herself and gave some background of her experience.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tony asked for a motion to approve minutes from November 9, 2021 meeting. Motion made by Frank Falatyn, seconded by Don Mapes. Correction needed to include Desiree Lyle and Anthony Mignone as present. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Minutes approved with corrections.

### 3. FINANCIAL REPORT – Faith Golden, OET Deputy Director

Faith shared her screen with charts and stated that we are doing well; showed expenditures chart. We have had more OJT's than last year. We are in pretty good shape with WIOA for this point in the year showed spending bar graph. Fiscal year is July 1 to June 30.

### 4. POLICY REVIEW AND UPDATE

Faith went over the ITA Policy. Changes are marked in red. This is an existing policy that we are making adjustments to.

Faith went over the Regional Demand Occupation List which is posted on the DOL website and Local Demand Occupation List which is posted on our OET website. Faith shared the links. Tony reminded all to visit Ulsterworks.com website if they haven't done so.

Gene asked how occupations get added to the list and asked if HHA is on the list. He also asked what is the timeline and what are the needs of Ulster County, is manufacturing on the list and can we respond to these needs? Also, how are we spending the funds? Sharon said that HHA is on the list. Sharon stated that home health aides and CNA's are high demand careers and people are not signing up for courses to train and get certified. Candidates are not out there. Tony stated it is a matter of money/funds. We need to be prepared when people do come back.

### 5. GUN VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

Sharon went over this – received funding in 2021 for GVI program for 2 zip codes – targeted for Kingston and Ellenville areas. There has been difficulty engaging people. Discussed having incentive policy to encourage young people (16-24 year old range) to participate and to help keep them on the straight and narrow. Shared Gun Violence Prevention Initiative Incentive Policy screen. This will be administered by OET office by the Youth staff personnel. Went over payments/incentives, etc. The funds received by individuals is not taxable.

Tony reminded that date of approval needs to be on all policies.

Focus is on the fact that employment will lead to less gun violence. It is a state-wide initiative.

Tony Marmo asked for a motion to approve. Motion made by Don Mapes. Seconded by Mike Iapocce.

People have to be in our program to be eligible. There is an enrollment process for GVI program.

Chris Marx brought up that there is evidence that the incentive approach is effective.

Mike Iapocce stated that it is the hope that employment will decrease gun violence and gave the link that provides info on the origins of this program. Keeping youth engaged in productive activities can help to discourage fire arm activities.

Motion carried, policy adopted.

How do we publicize this? Sharon stated that case management is not part of our work but we have lists to provide of other agencies that can help.

## 6. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS – Committee Structure and Board Recruitment

Tony spoke about this. Need to work on engagement and Board recruitment. Membership is key – we have 5 vacancies. Onboarding and orientation is a priority. Need to get engaged for more knowledge. Strategic initiative committee is key.

Focus on public image and engagement – People need to know about us, we need to be better known.

Youth Engagement Committee is a very popular committee – please get signed up if you are not on one of these committees. Each committee should meet by this April. Let one of the Executive Committee know if you are interested.

Frank spoke about finding good Board members – we don't have good representation throughout the County. Invite anyone from Catskill, Belleayre or Ellenville area. Need young blood coming in to train to eventually take the place of members that may retire.

There is a composition section in the bylaws (Article 3, Section 1). We are looking for a diverse Board.

Sharon mentioned ensuring that people can continue to attend these meetings virtually in the future, so that people that cannot attend in-person can still participate.

Regarding geographical area outreach, Ward Todd will do outreach in the Shandaken/Phoenicia area. He will also get someone from the Young Professionals Organization.

We may put together a map of what geographical areas we need members from.

## 7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### **Governor's State of the State:**

Sharon asked if everyone reviewed the governor's state of the state and asked everyone to please review if you haven't; It is on the Governor's website. It is encouraging that it is focused on looking at the workforce and workforce development. Money is not available – has to be negotiated with the Legislature. Green careers is the wave of our future.

### **Program Updates:**

OET to do outreach plan when COVID restrictions are lifted – We will strive to be out more in the community and get the word out to strengthen customers coming to us.

### **WDB Recertification:**

We have to re-certify ourselves as a workforce development board - Replacement of Board vacancies to ensure we have our allotted number. Tony went over percentages required. We can only have 51% of representation by business owners and 20% from workforce representatives in replacement of Board members. We need to re-align our numbers.

Desiree to talk to Sharon about what committees she may be qualified for. We are updating the spreadsheet.

### **NY SCION**

NY SCION implementation plan - Waiting on word from the state.

Tony went over the time of future WDB meetings – Keep at 3:30 pm, second Tuesday of the month. May revisit this in the future. Looking at bringing in some guests to speak.

**8. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Tony asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Tony Marmo, seconded by Frank Falatyn. All in Favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm.

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

**April 12, 2022**

3:30 pm