

COUNTY OF ULSTER

Office of Employment and Training

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Patrick K. Ryan, Ulster County
Executive

Tomasine Oliphant, Director

Ulster County Workforce Development Board Meeting February 11, 2020 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT – John Eickman, Angela Patella, Marie Kropp – proxy for Chris Marx, Tom Scaglione, Janet Knott, Mary Jalloh, Tony Marmo, Barbara Loughran – proxy for Lisa Berger, James Ferraro, Don Lucarello, Robert Hirsch, Anthony Mignone

MEMBERS EXCUSED – Paul Cassel, Sean Mahoney, Michael Berg, Frank Falatyn

MEMBERS ABSENT - Heidi Rosborough, Mike Iapoco

ALSO PRESENT – Tomasine Oliphant, OET Director/WDB Director, Cynthia Baran, OET Deputy Fiscal Director, Lisa Snyder, OET, Gene Knudsen, Ulster BOCES, Stephen Casa, Ulster BOCES

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm by Tony Marmo, WDB Deputy Chair. There was a quorum. Introductions were made by the Board. Each member was introduced and spoke a little about themselves.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Tony asked for a motion to approve. Motion by John Eickman to approve minutes from 12.10.19 seconded by Mary Jalloh. One abstention. All in favor. None opposed. Minutes approved.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT: Cynthia Baran, OET Deputy Director

Cindy went over financials. Our biggest issue this year is that we lost staff early on: two in September and one in October. We are now playing catch-up with about \$50,000. We got a 26 % increase in WIOA training money. We put a number of people into training in September. We had a little over \$100,000 to spend at the end of January. There are four months left in which to spend it which is a tall order. In addition, we are not seeing as many people due to the good economy.

Tony inquired as to the possibility of using temp. staff to help out. Cindy said that probably would have been a good idea, but we did not expect to be short-staffed for as long as we were.

A number of individuals have been placed into classroom training. Bill McDonough has put people into OJTs. Cindy stated we have \$68,000 to spend on training. Tony asked Bob if the Chamber could publicize these available training funds? Bob said the Chamber usually publicizes the businesses who have jobs. Anthony suggested Angela could do an email blast through Acces-VR. Anthony stated that both Gateway and ARCs have individuals who would benefit.

Cindy advised that we are okay with adult spending, but behind in youth and DW. Gene asked about unmet needs. Cindy explained that we work through partner agencies. It seems like we get more money during a good economy and less in a poor economy. There is a big need for diesel mechanics. Angela stated that both Amazon and Google have a need for computer technicians. Barbara stated that she and Lisa Berger are looking into this at Economic Development. Mary stated that she can check and see what model the BOCES Tech. Center is using.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Tomasine Oliphant, Director

Tomasine updated the board regarding the two vacant positions in OET. We are in the process of hiring 2 new staff and they should be starting in 3-4 weeks. They are external hires with a lot of experience.

We are also working on completion of the U.C. Local Plan. Cindy explained that the County Executive puts out a format for each department. We also have a NYS DOL Local Plan and Annual Report for Ulster County. The Local Plan pertains to operations: demand occupations, economy, types of programming; what we are doing and what we are projecting to do. This was done two years ago, and we are updating it now. The Plan will be available online.

Mary noted that the NYATEP WIOA State Plan is up for review and they want comments by 2/17. This was developed without input from any of the WIOA boards. Discussion followed.

Tomasine advised the Board about Career Center updates: We are now a 2020 Census Assistance Center, and have developed a mini workshop/presentation (about 30 min.) held twice a week starting at 10:00 a.m. There will be assistance to help people apply for the Census jobs. These will take place starting this week until the end of July. Census worker must be at least 18 years of age. The pay is \$23.00/hour.

Tomasine is working on new signage for building. Dr. Evelyn Wright, who is our new Deputy County Executive has been very supportive and a good advocate for this. She will be joining us at the next board meeting.

Tomasine is also in contact with UCAT to work on getting an onsite bus stop here. Currently, customers are being dropped off at Enzo's and walking to the Career Center, which is not close enough, particularly in bad weather or for people who have physical limitations.

Tomasine advised that the new County Executive Team is assisting us with providing more outreach with social media in getting information out to the public about the services OET offers.

Tomasine and Faith Golden met with KHS Administration regarding a referral system to reach students who are dropping out of school and getting them to come to the Career Center.

Career Center staff are in Ellenville Satellite Office every Tuesday since December. They are co-housed with DSS staff at the Trudy Resnick Farber building. Civil Service workshops have been done there, and there has been outreach by the Ticket to Work Program as well. Mary noted that BOCES has literacy classes there at 104 Center Street if needed. Janet noted that the Career Center flier pic does not show the Trudy Resnick building.

Tomasine advised that the County Executive Office has developed a Green Jobs Summer Intern Program, and OET is collaborating on that. Candidates must be HS seniors or first-year college students. It is a 5-week internship for a Green company. Businesses will recruit and OET will administer under SYEP model.

Tomasine spoke about the Brighter Futures Initiative for at-risk youth, ages 16-20, who are involved with the justice system. This initiative provides wrap-around supports and OET will be assisting with job search.

The first meeting of the 2020 Veteran Job Fair was held last Friday. The job Fair is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 6th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. We will send out an email confirmation.

Barbara spoke about the new Economic Development Initiative: 1,000 Jobs in 1,000 Days. The goal is to try and entice youth back to the area who grew up here with the opportunity of higher than entry-level jobs. Barb and Lisa Berger are working on this and developing a social media campaign. Discussion followed re: contacting businesses, pay rates, etc. Barb noted that construction is picking up and there are a lot of engineering jobs.

4. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Tony asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Bob Hirsch, seconded by John Eickman. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

ULSTER COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, April 14th, 2020

3:30 pm

535 Boices Lane, Suite 521, Kingston, NY 12401