

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 (via Zoom) September 8, 2020 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT – Donald Lucarello, Lisa Berger, Alejandro Cordova, Tom Scaglione, Stephen Casa, John Eickman, Arnaldo Sehwerert, Eugene Knudsen, Donald Mapes, Anthony Mignone, Nels Leader, Janet Knott, Chris Marx, Michael Berg, Sean Mahoney, Jim Ferraro, Bill McKnight

MEMBERS EXCUSED - Frank Falatyn, Tony Marmo

MEMBERS ABSENT - Heidi Rosborough, Mike Iapocce

ALSO PRESENT – Tomasine Oliphant, OET Director/WDB Director, Faith Golden, OET Deputy Fiscal Director, Janet Rigaux, OET, Lisa Snyder, OET

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Current and new board members introduced themselves.

The meeting was called to order at 3:50 pm by Sean Mahoney WDB Chair. There was a quorum.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Sean asked for a motion to approve minutes from May. Motion by John Eickman, seconded by Lisa Berger. All in favor. Motion passed.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT: Faith Golden, OET Deputy Director

Faith explained OET fiscal year, funding streams on financials, explained how funding is obtained and timeframes. Faith presented budget and stated allocation was cut by 17%. Discussed TDT and DW monies. State is applying for extensions on funding. We are allowed to carry-in about 20% each year from the previous year and we always try to do that. Faith went over training funds, TANF expenses for SYEP, Gateway assessments, etc. Overall, budget looks similar to last year, but needs approval from board to move forward. Eugene asked about accrual money related to training and health insurance benefits not billed out yet to county. Sean explained budget review and spending allocations to new board members. Sean asked for motion to approve budget for this fiscal year. Motion made by Anthony Mignone to approve. Seconded by Chris Marx. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried to approve budget. Eugene asked about whether funding is enough for the current conditions. Asked about spending plan and if funds have been allocated appropriately. Sean explained that due to the conditions it is difficult to say how this will all play out, i.e. remote training providers, unemployment numbers, economic indicators, etc. Tomasine in agreement and we are doing the best we can to get as many people trained as possible. Very uncertain times

moving forward. Faith advised the way funding goes in general depends on how many job seekers we have and the training programs that are available. We are watching closely and doing the best we can. Eugene noted high employment in certain sectors and limited in others. Lisa Berger explained that we have to spend absolutely 80% of federal money. The only thing to worry about is not having enough money. Lisa spoke about OJT Program, customized training underwriting as tools that can be used to assist people. Ulster County unemployment is 13%. Advised that there are businesses coming into Ulster County may need completely different skills than what we have now. There are some whole sectors that are still shut down, but industries have been slowly coming back. Eugene asked about future of Ulster County from economic standpoint. Lisa stated construction industry and healthcare are robust. Manufacturing as well. Economic Development has been in touch with manufacturers and they are moving forward. Spoke about warehouses going up in Orange County. Arnaldo concurred with Lisa. He stated that there has been a resurgence in the hospitality area. He stated that people have been starting businesses from zero, as well as restructuring their businesses. Michael Berg spoke about the Air BnB's and that the hospitality sector will be a major sector in Ulster County moving forward. Sean stated this is a societal transformation that we are still experiencing. We are in a 'wait and see' position and we will see how we will respond to that. Stephen Casa spoke about education pods, increased school enrollment and being aware and being able to set up training programs, etc.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Tomasine Oliphant, Director

Tomasine presented NYSDOL Demand Occupations List. We are putting a lot of individuals enrolled in front end web development through SUNY Ulster and Kingston Can Code. Tomasine spoke about CLP Green Jobs Apprenticeship and funding through Green Jobs Academy and OJT. Sean asked for a motion to approve Demand Occupations List 2020. Motion to approve by Sean Mahoney. Seconded by Nels Leader. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved. Tomasine reminded board that we are keeping track of any policy changes during COVID, such as the Updated Adult Eligibility Policy, which was approved at the last meeting. We are keeping a separate file for any that are changed during COVID. Today we are asking for a change to the ITA Policy Stated a change to CDL-A Course hour increase to 200 hours and cost increase to \$6,500. CD-LB course will be increased to 80 hours with a cost increase to \$4,100.00. Motion to approve the raising of limit to pay for CDL A & B made by Lisa Berger. Seconded by Stephen Casa. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved. Michael asked about copies of approved policies, which Tomasine will send to board. Tomasine stated that there are 271 unemployed individuals enrolled in Coursera. Sean asked about the courses: Contact tracing, Excel, Tech courses. Tomasine will send list of courses to the board and updated ITA Policy.

4. SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CHARTS REVIEW – Janet Rigaux

Janet presented SYEP Power Point. Janet explained program to new board members and that Ulster County is only one of two states that run this program. Janet stated there was uncertainty as to whether there would be a program this year and was delighted that we were able to. Janet went over comparison of 2019 and 2020 program. There were issues recruiting the same number of businesses. We had a placement rate of 116 individuals. Normally we would have 50-60 worksites, this year we only had 31. Janet advised that we ran a four-week program this year, instead of a five-week program that we usually have. Funding was released late this year on July 6 and program started on July 13. Even with the pandemic, we received 186 applications. Recruited until the first week of June. We had a higher number of age 16+ youth this year. We probably will not spend all of the money allocated for this year. Average hours per week worked was higher this year. Janet went over special issues due to the pandemic, i.e. copying of documents, etc. Innovative solutions: AdHoc SYEP Committee, special partnerships between Ellenville High School, Go Beyond Greatness, Ramapo for Children, Brothers at Bard. Janet mentioned Go Beyond Greatness video from YouTube that she will send to the board. Janet shared websites built by young people through Albany Can Code. Janet advised both worksite and youth orientations were done via OET website. Janet discussed Go Beyond Greatness young people working at Ellenville High School.

Discussed Ramapo for Children. Janet shared stats from past 5 years of SYEP Success Rate. Janet stated that this year out of 160 young people, only 6% did not complete program. Janet thanked Tomasine for her idea of having the AdHoc Committee and how those partnerships helped make the program a success. Janet stated that for the young people it was great to get out of the house and work. There was a lot of outdoor work and the kids did wear their masks. This year, we had 17 young people who got hired after the program ended, which is excellent. Thank you to Danica, one of our new OET staff people who put up the Facebook posts for SYEP. Janet stated that overall we had a very successful program this year. Sean stated that SYEP accomplished well above the expectations due to the pandemic, which is excellent. Sean apologized for the late start of today's meeting. Due to the lack of a new member committee at this time, Sean stated that he wanted to make sure the new members understand what the WDB is about. Sean suggested new members visit OET website to learn more and that they can contact him or Tomasine with any questions. Sean invited new members to please share any ideas they may have. Tomasine introduced Bill McKnight, who is also a new board member. He stated he is excited by the opportunity to serve on the WDB. Sean thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

5. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Sean asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Donald Mapes, seconded by Stephen Casa. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.

ULSTER COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, November 10, 2020

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