

COUNTY OF ULSTER

Workforce Development Board

535 BOICES LANE
KINGSTON, NY 12401-1955

Jen Metzger,
Ulster County Executive



Phone: (845) 340-3170
Fax: (845) 340-3165
E-mail: oet@co.ulster.ny.us
Sharon Williams, Director

Ulster County Workforce Development Board Meeting November 15, 2023 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT – Jim Ferraro, Ashima Butler, Frank Falatyn, John Eickman, Jeanne Lipscomb, Angela Patella, Don Mapes, Sean Brix, Peter Harris, Alex Cordova

MEMBERS ABSENT - Anthony Mignone, Chris Marx, Dan Whalen, Desiree Lyle, Jess Davis, Joe McDole, LaQuesha Matthews-Reed, Maura McMahon, Michael Berg, Mike Iapoce, Tamika Dunkley, Tina Buono, Tony Marmo

ALSO PRESENT - Sharon Williams, OET Director/WDB Director, Faith Golden, OET Deputy Director, Renee Pugliese, OET

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am by Jim Ferraro, WDB Chair. There was not a quorum.

1. **OPENING – JIM FERRARO, BOARD CHAIR:**

Jim welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JIM FERRARO**

Jim asked for a motion to approve minutes from September 2023. Motion made by Frank Falatyn, seconded by Peter Harris. All in Favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

3. **FINANCIAL REPORT – FAITH GOLDEN, OET DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Faith presented the monthly financial report for October 2023 on Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker funds. We are on point in Adult spending, a little below on Youth and a little behind on Dislocated Worker, however we got a \$100,000 increase in funding this year towards DW. The NYSDOL modified the definition of Dislocated Worker, therefore we are extending who is considered so we can service more people. We are watching the Federal shut down and hoping they will avoid that again – we are waiting for our second round of funding from them for the program year which always comes after October 1 and hasn't been released yet. Hopefully we will get our NOA by the end of the month.

Young Adult Incentive Policy – We are in the midst of our annual fiscal audit through NYSDOL to make sure our policies are inline. We are providing them requested documentation. To update the Young Adult Incentive Policy, three items that we are no longer doing or paying out on are being eliminated from the policy.

Since we do not have a quorum, a vote cannot be done at this time.

4. **WORKFORCE INNOVATION CENTER/OFFICE OF STRATEGIC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT UPDATES – SHARON WILLIAMS, WDB DIRECTOR**

We have a new grant writer who will be working with us. Our goal is to still meet the deadline of December 31st. We will reach out for potential support letters. The grant doesn't cover any funding in the K12 realm but it will be mentioned in the grant application.

We will be moving to iPark87 in 2024. We are getting closer to having a rendering of what the space will look like. We will be to the left of the clock, sharing space with Youth Build, Communities for Local Power and BOCES along with the three Ulster County Departments: OET, Economic Development and Tourism. SUNY Ulster and SUNY New Paltz will also be there. It will be a one-stop shop for workforce development and will also be a transport hub for UCAT. There will be a community space of 1500 square feet for use, day or evening, that will be open to the community as well. Address is not known at this time (currently is 250 Enterprise Drive). Archtop Fibers will be next door to the right and will be installing all of the wiring/broadband access in the building and we will have wifi out to the parking area.

5. NEW TRAINING/EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - SHARON WILLIAMS, WDB DIRECTOR

The new year-round Youth Employment Program will kick off in January 2024 and run through June, afterschool and on weekends for ages 14-20 year olds. Participants will then be offered a position in the SYEP. Eligibility is based on financial need. We may receive funding to continue the program from September through December, so it can truly be year-round.

We will be holding a work readiness series course for 14-15 year olds that is a 6 week program. Participants will earn incentives to complete the course. They will also receive a certificate of completion to present to potential employers.

If you are interested in being a worksite, please let OET know. Employer/Worksite must have insurance (Workers' Comp, Disability and General Liability, or a valid CE-200 Exemption Certificate).

It was mentioned to consider training in the trades. Discussion followed regarding collaborating with BOCES to help in this endeavor - they have several workforce coordinators. Also, their Employability Day is a great event for employers and those involved in workforce development to participate in and have an opportunity to speak to the kids.

There was also discussion about Lineman school. The program is 8 months. ACCES-VR can fund this for people with a documented disability.

6. WORKFORCE SUMMIT 4 – SHARON WILLIAMS, WDB DIRECTOR

SAVE THE DATE: There will be another Workforce Summit on January 18, 2024 at SUNY Ulster-Kingston Campus. We are considering combining this with the WDB Meeting that is currently scheduled for the day before. The focus will possibly be on youth and/or employer training: consider hiring non-traditional employees (excluded populations).

7. MOTION TO ADJOURN – JIM FERRARO

Jim asked for a Motion to Adjourn – Motion made by John Eickman, seconded by Don Mapes. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 am.

ULSTER COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NEXT MEETING:

(Subject to change)

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

8:00 AM