

COUNTY OF ULSTER

Workforce Development Board

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Sharon Williams, Director

Ulster County Workforce Development Board Meeting July 19, 2023 Minutes

- MEMBERS PRESENT** – Jim Ferraro, John Eickman, Peter Harris, Tina Buono, Chris Marx, Don Mapes, Frank Falatyn, Ashima Butler, Jess Davis, Angela Patella, Mike Berg, Joe McDole
- MEMBERS ABSENT** - Tony Marmo, Maura McMahon, Tamika Dunkley, Mike Iapocce, Jeanne Lipscomb, Desiree Lyle
- ALSO PRESENT** – Sharon Williams, OET Director/WDB Director, Faith Golden, OET Deputy Director, Renee Pugliese, OET, Phil Erner, Ulster County Legislator

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am by Jim Ferraro, WDB Chair. There was a quorum.

1. OPENING – JIM FERRARO, BOARD CHAIR:

Jim was welcomed as the new Chair. Introductions were made.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JIM FERRARO

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

3. FINANCIAL REPORT – FAITH GOLDEN, OET DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Faith presented the charts and graphs for the April 2023 Report on Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker funds. The program year ended June 30th. We spent 81 % on Adults, 77% on Youth and 71.5 % on Dislocated Workers.

It was previously requested and approved to transfer funds from Dislocated Worker to Adult funds and we probably will request again during the program year to transfer excess funds. There was an increase in DW funds – we will try to spend it if we get enough DW customers (mostly unemployed), otherwise, we will request to transfer the excess. We have been doing outreach to gain more customers.

4. OVERVIEW OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION CENTER/OFFICE OF STRATEGIC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT/FOLLOW-UP FROM WORKFORCE SUMMIT 3 – SHARON WILLIAMS, WDB DIRECTOR

Frank has been providing charts regarding the grant that we have been discussing. An update was given regarding the Workforce Innovation Center @ iPark 87. This will be an all-inclusive One Stop Shop: Live, Work, Play - where there will be training providers, employers, and County Departments (Office of Employment & Training, Economic Development, and Tourism) all housed in one location. SUNY Ulster, SUNY New Paltz and Ulster BOCES may join. There will be a UCAT hub and possibly Zinc 8, Cadenza and Archtop Fiber. The goal is to make it easier for residents seeking employment. There may be 500 housing units and possible workforce housing for Zinc 8.

Discussion followed on how do we move people from unemployed or underemployed to employment. We are seeking to obtain funding from the Office of Strategic Workforce Development which is a new subdivision of Empire State Development who is offering a grant with a minimum of \$50,000 to a maximum of 1 million dollars. The County is starting to write the grant. There has been a Resolution submitted to the Legislature to approve applying for the grant. If and when we receive the grant, we will start to build a coalition. The grant is for 2 years and the WDB Executive Committee will be part of the process from beginning to end.

At the Workforce Summit 3, Frank presented a proposal – building partnerships for the grant writing process. Our goal is to submit it by September 30. If we miss the September deadline, the last opportunity to apply is December 30th. It was suggested that we need letters of support for the grant – industries will be approached. The goal is to get federal funding approved. Transit needs of iPark 87 to serve the workforce of the County was discussed. Questions and more discussion followed, more to come. Sharon will share Frank’s Zoom presentation with the group.

5. IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS LIST/UPDATE – ALL

Discussed Ulster County In-Demand Occupation List. It is the Board’s responsibility to modify this list. The State is looking at this list and the possible In-Demand List for Ulster County. Johnny Nelson from NYSDOL gave his suggestion (Raw List). The ONET code is what someone would get paid in that industry. One suggestion from the group was possibly adding Childcare Professional to the list. Board members to forward their suggestions/ideas to Sharon or Jim within the next 2 weeks. The suggestions will be reviewed at the next Committee Meeting.

6. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD COMMITTEE STRUCTURE – SHARON WILLIAMS, WDB DIRECTOR

The third Workforce Summit was held and we are working towards the goal. Workgroups were created. The Wrap-around (support) Services group struggled the most. Discussion followed regarding how do we get the word out to all human resource directors/professionals for all businesses. Needs to be centralized somehow so people are aware of resources that are available.

7. WDB NEW MEMBERSHIP SLATE – JIM FERRARO/SHARON WILLIAMS

The new program year started on July 1st. We have some new members and lost some members. We need a specific percentages from certain industries to remain a Workforce Board. We are below percentage on workforce development partners. We are due to certify again in 2025. We are looking for suggestions for new members to recruit. The Board Engagement Committee is to review the resumes, etc. Please submit your suggestions to Sharon or Jim within the next 2 weeks.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN – JIM FERRARO

Jim asked for a Motion to Adjourn – Motion made by Frank Falatyn, seconded by Mike Berg. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 am.

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

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023
8:00 AM**