

# COUNTY OF ULSTER

## Workforce Development Board

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Sharon Williams, Director

### Ulster County Workforce Development Board Meeting January 15, 2024 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT – Jim Ferraro, Ashima Butler, Sean Brix, Frank Falatyn, Keith Blair, Dan Whalen, Tiziana Rinaldi, Michael Iapoce, Peter Harris, Alejandro Cordova, Jeanne Lipscomb, Domenica Murray

MEMBERS ABSENT – Michael Berg, Jess Davis, Tamika Dunkley, John Eickman, Jana Kantor, Chris Marx, LaQuesha Matthews-Reed, Joe McDole, Anthony Mignone, Don Mapes, Angela Patella

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 am by Jim Ferraro, WDB Chair. There was a quorum.

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

Jim welcomed everyone.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER - JIM

New member, Domenica Murray, was introduced and welcomed. She is the Business Manager of Normann Staffing and has worked there for the last 20 years. She has filled Tony Marmo's seat on the Board. She gave a little background of her experience.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JIM FERRARO

Jim asked for a motion to approve Minutes from November 2024. Motion made by Frank Falatyn, seconded by Alex Cordova. All in Favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

#### 4. WIOA REAUTHORIZATION UPDATE – SHARON WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR

WIOA was up for re-authorization in 2024. The legislators did not come to an agreement of what the re-authorization would look like. There will be some changes. It will be going back to the drawing board with the Legislators. There is new administration – new legislators. WIOA will be cut significantly, but our funding is good through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (the end of our fiscal year). Not only will the funding be affected, but they could also change the focus of the WDB and structure. NYATEP tries to advocate for us.

#### 5. WDB BYLAW REVIEW - SHARON

Since our current County Executive has been in office (approx.. 3 years), a number of County Boards and Commissions have not had their permissions updated. The last time our bylaws were ratified was 2019, signed by the previous County Executive Pat Ryan. The current bylaw needs to be revised and signed by the current County Executive. As we move into our new fiscal year July 1st, we will have to have our bylaws reviewed, updated and signed by the County Executive and it will be up to her to choose the new Chair of the WDB. We should be seeing the revisions shortly.

## **6. GRANT AWARDS - SHARON**

OJET grant (Office of Just Energy Transition) – Received some funding through the State and through NY Power Authority to help train individuals in transition skills in green energy and sustainable jobs. We applied for an OJET grant and received \$178,000 to help create a training for this transition. We'll be working in partnership with Communities for Local Power who currently runs a training program on sustainable energy careers.

Part of the struggle that we've had in this office is identifying those employers who are ready to hire these newly trained people. Also, people aren't enrolling for the course, possibly because the jobs are limited. Discussion followed.

Later this year the County will be applying for an additional OJET grant to focus on EV training to repair the equipment/chargers, etc. The nearest EV training currently is in Pennsylvania.

The other grant that was secured is the Rural Welcoming Initiative with the Welcoming America organization to build an infrastructure. Their focus is to welcome immigrants coming in and to become work authorized. From a WDB standpoint, we can focus on assessing the community's assets for integration, identifying skills and how can we employ them, and what are the barriers. Discussion followed – what is the pathway for them to get authorized to work here.

## **7. FINANCIAL REPORT – FAITH GOLDEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Faith went over the financial report from December 2024. We are halfway through the program year. We can transfer funds between Adult and Dislocated Worker.

## **8. UPDATES –**

iPark 87 - Once the final floor plan is agreed upon between the County and National Resources, then the building will begin.

Childcare Ad Hoc Committee - a small group met with Pattern for Progress to work in conjunction with Dutchess County to address the childcare crisis. Discussion followed.

## **9. MOTION TO ADJOURN – JIM FERRARO**

Motion made to adjourn by Frank Falatyn, seconded by Dan Whalen. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.

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

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025  
8:00 AM**