

COUNTY OF ULSTER

Workforce Development Board

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Jen Metzger,
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Sharon Williams, Director

Ulster County Workforce Development Board Meeting March 19, 2024 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT – Jim Ferraro (remote from Atlanta, GA), John Eickman, Ashima Butler, Chris Marx, Sean Brix, Frank Falatyn, Michael Iapoce, Domenica Murray, Tiziana Rinaldi (remote from Milton, NY)

MEMBERS ABSENT – Michael Berg, Tina Buono, Jess Davis, Tamika Dunkley, Jana Kantor, LaQuesha Matthews-Reed, Joe McDole, Anthony Mignone, Don Mapes, Angela Patella, Keith Blair, Dan Whalen, Peter Harris, Alejandro Cordova, Jeanne Lipscomb

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 no quorum.

1. OPENING – JIM FERRARO, BOARD CHAIR:

Jim welcomed everyone.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JIM

There was no quorum, therefore the Minutes from January 2025 were not voted on.

3. iPARK87 UPDATE – SHARON WILLIAMS

There has been a change in the lease. The County was in an Agreement through UCEDA (Ulster County Economic Development Alliance) for a master lease that included Economic Development, Tourism, SUNY Ulster and SUNY New Paltz. National Resources modified some of the spacing, therefore breaking the lease. A new lease will be created. Economic Development and Tourism will not be joining. We are slated to be located to the right of the clock on the first floor, next to Youth Build and Archtop Fibers. The move will possibly take place sometime in the Fall of 2025. The County will be the lease holder now. There will be a large conference room and also a multi-purpose room for use.

4. WIOA REAUTHORIZATION UPDATE – SHARON WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR

There isn't much to update. WIOA is trying to be pushed into a continuing resolution which would basically, keep it as is until they go back to the drawing board. The Feds are trying to eliminate focus on Youth and push it more toward Adults. The States are at odds. Our allotment is good through June 30th, 2025. All of our funding originates from federal money. We lobby with NYATEP.

5. WDB BYLAW REVIEW - SHARON

Sharon asked for everyone to review the updated Bylaws and let her know of any thoughts/suggestions, please send her a memo. We will have to discuss new members to be recruited for the Board. We will lose some members. The County Executive will need to make a recommendation for the Chair. We are currently a Board of 25, therefore need 13 for quorum. Some discussion took place regarding the open meetings law.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT – FAITH GOLDEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Report is from the end of February 2025, which is 2/3 of the way through the program year. We continue to approve spending for training. We have about \$100,000 left for spending between Adult and DW through the end of the program year. It would be nice to carry in more than the 20% carry in but the State would need to give us the approval for that. We'll see if they allow that again this year. Draft allocations came out, however the final allocations come out around April.

The SYEP application process has begun for this year. The program is dependent on funding. We are not sure how many youth we will be able to serve. All youth, ages 14-20, in the program will be paid \$16.50 per hour.

7. UPDATES – SHARON WILLIAMS

NYATEP 2024 State of the Workforce – This comes out every year. They are looking for feedback; should the format be changed, is there any particular data we are looking for, etc.? The report shows us as underperforming, which may have to do with numbers served. Also, customers may not qualify. Customers must be eligible for us to fund training (making less than \$22.00 per hour).

The group discussed the frozen job market. The data captured may be missing information. People are leaving the existing workforce and their information is not being reflected. Discussion followed regarding collaborating on a community job fair. Consider pursuing the use of the former Best Buy space or at SUNY Ulster.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN – JIM FERRARO

Motion made to adjourn by Frank Falatyn, seconded by John Eickman. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 am.

ULSTER COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
8:00 AM