

COUNTY OF ULSTER

Workforce Development Board

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Ulster County Workforce Development Board Meeting November 19, 2025 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT – Jim Ferraro, Domenica Murray, Jon Lindgren, John Eickman, Leah Gherardi, Keith Blair, Jen Mullan, Chris Marx, Sean Brix, Dan Whalen, Peter Harris, Holly Tubby, Tiziana Rinaldo (from Marlboro, NY)

MEMBERS ABSENT –Michael Berg, Ashima Butler, Tina Buono, Jess Davis, Tamika Dunkley, Frank Falatyn, Mike Iapoce, Nejla Liias, Jeanne Lipscomb, Joe McDole, Angela Patella

ALSO PRESENT - Sharon Williams, OET Director/WDB Director, Faith Golden, OET Deputy Director, Suzette Haas, Assistant County Attorney, Renee Pugliese, OET

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m. by Jim Ferraro, WDB Chair. There was a quorum.

1. OPENING – JIM FERRARO, BOARD CHAIR:

Jim started the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JIM, CHAIR

Jim asked for a motion to approve Minutes from September 2025. Motion made by John Eickman, seconded by Sean Brix. All in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

3. NEW MEMBER UPDATE – SHARON WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR

We have a new member Holly Tubby, Assistant Vice President/Human Resources – Ulster Savings Bank who took Alex Cordova's spot. Introductions were made around the room.

4. FUNDING UPDATE – SHARON WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR

We received our NOA's from the State for our full funding for programs through June 30th, 2026. However, we don't know what will happen July 1st. We don't know the status of SYEP until the State budget passes (around April). We start recruiting in February for that program contingent on funding. We hold on to the applications until we receive word that we have funding.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT – FAITH GOLDEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Faith went over the spending. We've picked up the pace on Adult spending, are on track with Youth spending and a little behind on Dislocated Worker spending. We can transfer money from DW to Adult funding. The unemployment rate is pretty low so it's not surprising that we don't have that many Dislocated Workers at this point.

The CSEA contract was passed, so there will be salary increases for the staff in the office which will be added into the projections and will modify the budget.

6. DEMAND OCCUPATION LIST UPDATE – SHARON WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR

A mind map created by Peter Harris was reviewed. It would be beneficial to look at the Demand Occupations List and see how that is correlating our training providers and how we can put together a visual pathway. Tours are available at BOCES if anyone is interested. Peter went over the mind map and discussion followed. Here in NY the CTE experience is referring to 11th and 12th grade.

The next step in updating our Demand Occupation List is that the Executive Committee will streamline this and then present it to the Board for review and consideration. The list will be continuously updated as new industries come into the County and deleting titles that may not be in-demand any longer. The goal is to create a more collaborative list.

Calendar invites will be sent out by Sharon for all 2026 Board meeting dates.

7. NOMINATION OF NEW CHAIR and VOTE – ALL

Reminder that the Chair must come from current business members of the Board to comply with our bylaws. We had 3 nominees, 2 of which declined. Jim asked for a motion to accept the nomination of Sean Brix for Chair of the Workforce Development Board. Motion made by Dan Whalen, seconded by Domenica Murray. All in favor, none opposed. Nomination approved.

Motion made by Peter Harris for Installation of New Chair, whose term runs through June 30, 2027. Seconded by Chris Marx. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved. We welcome Sean Brix as our new Chair.

8. RECOGNITION – SHARON

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Jim in recognition for his time served as Chair. Jim stayed on past his term until the new chair could be nominated and installed.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN – JIM FERRARO

Jim asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Dan Whalen, seconded by John Eickman. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 a.m.

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

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026
8:00 AM**