

ORANGE COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2018 – 8:00 a.m.

18 Seward Avenue, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Middletown, NY

MISSION STATEMENT:

MISSION: To create effective strategic alliances that support the development of talent to meet the workforce needs of job seekers and regional businesses.

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PRESENT: Ellen Anderson, Gillian Barrett, Andrew Carnright, Amanda Dana, Mary DeFreitas, Cedric Glasper, Charles Quinn, Peter Romano, Dennis Yorke

Ms. Kathleen Kenney, from NYSDOL, was present.
Mr. Bill Edwards from IBEW Local 363 was present.

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS: Ms. DeFreitas welcomed everyone before calling the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. Since there was no quorum present, the approval of the January 19th minutes was postponed to a future meeting.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- Mr. Knob announced that the three job fairs that are held in each of the Career Centers have been very successful. Last month, 26 employers attended the Newburgh Job Fair and approximately 80 people attended. Ms. Blair said that marketing for the events includes email blasts, website postings and job matching. There is no paid advertising done. Mr. Knob stated that a few other counties wanted to begin doing mini job fairs in their career centers as well. Even though the Port Jervis office does not serve as a Career Center we do host the job fairs there as well with much success. Additionally, the Loop provides transportation to and from Middletown and Port Jervis so Port Jervis residents can travel to the Middletown’s Career Center for career center services as well as the Job Fairs. Follow-up is done with the employers who participate in the job fairs to see how many job seekers were hired. The Job Fairs are scheduled in advance and the employers receive email blasts to let them know of the upcoming job fair. Ms. Susan Hansen is in charge of the Job Fairs. There is no cost to an employer to participate. Mr. Yorke asked to be included in the email blast to the employers. Ms. Blair will get him added to the email distribution list.
- Mr. Knob attended a meeting to address the critical need for Direct Support Professionals (DSP). Mr. Knob, Ms. Blair, Ms. Patsalos, the County Executive’s Office, Mr. Hecht (BOCES Superintendent), were some of the attendees which included several agencies that employ Direct Support Professionals. Orange-Ulster BOCES could put a training program together through Adult Ed to address the shortage of DSP’s. Agencies will pay more to people who have training than who don’t have the training. DSP’s take

care of disabled children and adults in the home and currently don't need any certification. With a training program, at least these Direct Support Professionals will have some training and knowledge and can be certified before going into private or group homes. These jobs normally do not pay well for untrained people. They can make anywhere from \$11 up to \$16.00/hour with experience.

- Ms. Dana hosted a meeting with Amy's Kitchen which Mr. Knob, Ms. Blair, and Ms. Patsalos attended. Amy's is looking at 2021 to open. Ms. Blair provided them with labor market information which included wage information and available workforce data. Amy's will employ 700 when fully operational.
- Mr. Knob announced that the Board will need volunteers in order to complete a One Stop Career Center Certification. Three or four members will be needed to go into the One Stop Career Centers to look at the services provided, based on the criteria established by the NYS Department of Labor. Volunteers will determine whether or not the career centers are providing the necessary services to achieve State certification. If anyone is interested they should contact Mr. Knob. Ms. Blair stated that the certification process involves completion of a check list and action plan for each One Stop Center.
- The State Labor Department is going to release an RFP for \$175 million dollars for incumbent worker training. Grants will be between \$100,000 and \$200,000 dollars. Details are limited right now, but they want to award the money to Workforce Development Boards and want the Boards to partner with employer sectors to do incumbent worker training as well as "new hire" training. They would like it done regionally and it should include distribution, manufacturing and healthcare employers. When the information becomes available, Mr. Knob will let everyone know.
- The Tech Hire Grant, which is a partnership with Westchester County, is a \$10 million dollar grant and is for 18-29 year olds to get them involved in Technical Fields. The participants are long term unemployed for at least 27 weeks. We have done two boot camps so far. Ms. Blair said that the Graduation for the 2nd boot camp would be held on Monday. A few graduates have already gotten jobs and some will be enrolling in training programs that will be paid for through the Westchester grant. Mr. Glasper from Mechanical Rubber has spoken to the class, as well as someone from Advance Testing. Boot camp attendees are advised on available opportunities in their companies as well as the education and training needed to be employed in their fields.
- Mr. Knob announced that the Welfare to Work (WTW) Program in 2017 closed over 500 welfare cases last year due to employment. This was due to the hard work and efforts of the staff. These case closings have saved the County approximately \$450,000 in county

taxation. Caseloads in general are down tremendously. Mr. Knob also reported that we transported 450 WTW customers to employment with our county vans.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Dana announced that the Newburgh Auto Auction is looking to hire drivers, over 18, on a part-time basis to drive cars back and forth on the property. It would be a good job for retired people.

Ms. Dana talked about the Workforce Development Task Force that began in November and is comprised of public and private sector agencies - Orange County Partnership, Citizens Foundation, various agencies and schools – SUNY Orange, Orange-Ulster BOCES, Council of Industry and others. These agencies got together to create awareness for various industry sectors (distribution, manufacturing, healthcare, etc.) and are focusing on training programs that would lead Orange County to having a qualified workforce. They have partnered with the Ramapo Library System that has access to the 17 school districts to provide information to students and parents regarding the various career opportunities for those students who may not be attending college after graduation. A “Did You Know” informational newsletter is being created to distribute to parents and students advise them about available employment opportunities. Another agenda item of the task force is to create a STEM Camp, run by SUNY Orange and partnering with private sector companies. The camp would tentatively operate 2 separate 1-week summer programs. Students would learn soft skills and also be exposed to different on-site work environments so they will gain practical industry knowledge. STEM teacher would be teaching in the camps. Tentatively each class would accommodate 30 students per week. Mr. John Yell, former Finance employee at Pratt & Whitney, is tentatively scheduled to be the STEM Camp teacher this summer. Mr. Knob suggested healthcare and distribution companies should also get involved.

Ms. Anderson stated that UNFI is doing a Problem Solving Training, which also seems to be an area that is lacking and needs addressing in their workplace.

Ms. DeFreitas stated that in their Rockland County, Crystal Run Healthcare has reached out to guidance counselors. They have started a program that has high school students meet with physicians and medical professionals in the evenings to talk about opportunities in healthcare. Crystal Run is reaching out to other school districts as well to provide information about available opportunities at Crystal Run Healthcare. They are also looking to train high school seniors for the call center beginning in April and through June with the intention of hiring them after graduation.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:35a.m.