

**ORANGE COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**May 18, 2018 – 8:00 a.m.**

**18 Seward Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**PRESENT:** Gillian Barrett, Andrew Carnright, Olga Campos, Amanda Dana, Mary DeFreitas, Cedric Gласper, Craig Jacobs, David Kohn, Tarsha McNeil, Marie Minichino, Dr. Kunwar Nagpal, Charles Quinn, Dennis Yorke

Guests: Ms. Vera Best, Ms. Tynisa Woody from Best Resource Center, Mr. Lou DeFeo and Ms. Peggy Fields from SUNY Orange, Ms. Kathleen Kenney, from NYSDOL,

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS:** Ms. DeFreitas welcomed everyone before calling the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. A quorum was present for voting purposes.

**YOUTH PROGRAM PERFORMANCE PRESENTATIONS:**

**1. Ms. Peggy Fields – SUNY Orange Youth Empowerment Program:** Ms. Fields gave an overview of the Youth Empowerment Program that serves out of school youth ages 16-24. The program assists youth with the development of employment and career goals, increases educational literacy and numeracy levels, offers high school equivalency preparation and reconnects youth with educational and training opportunities. Ms. Fields reviewed the statistics from 2016-2017 to the current grant year and the highlights from 2017-2018. Ms. Fields related the success stories of two of the program participants. Ms. DeFreitas complimented Ms. Fields on great job and the success of the Youth Empowerment Program and wanted updates on the two participants that Ms. Fields reported on. Ms. Dana asked if math was the hardest part of the TASC and Ms. Fields responded that it was and that is the part that most students return to re-take. Mr. Knob asked why the Paid Work Experience numbers were so low. Ms. Fields replied that more students are getting hired in the last two years in unsubsidized employment. The program adapted a bit to give them stipends for completing the five week work experience so all of them got some kind of reward for finishing. Mr. Knob suggested strategizing how to get more work experience expenditures that are not wages and find out what other activities count because 20% of the allocation needs to be spent on Work Experience activities.

**2. Ms. Vera Best and Ms. Tynisa Woody – Best Resource Center Inc.:** Ms. Best began by stating that Newburgh has a staggering number of youth that are very skills deficient and have very low literacy levels. Best Resources works diligently in helping to bring their skills up by

teaching work ethic and the importance of work. Many of the youth do not want to work. This year's program was targeted to serve 30 youth. In order to get 30 eligible participants, at least 70 youth have to be interviewed and they have to fit into the program. After motivating them and working with them, they do become motivated and see opportunity in the future. Ms. Best introduced Ms. Woody. She explained that the program is for youth ages 16-24 and hard to serve youth. Many of the participants are on TANF, probation, have mental health issues, drug issues and family issues, lack work skills, have low self-esteem and lack focus. Best Resources tries to change their attitudes and tries to motivate them to become a positive member of the community. Best Resources provides a number of workshops including a workshop called Skills to Pay the Bills. This workshop covers communication, team work, work ethic, and networking skills. Best Resources also teaches healthy lifestyles and educates them about infectious diseases. Ms. Best added that there is a high incidence of HIV in Newburgh schools. A lot of the youth are interested in financial literacy. Youth learn budgeting skills, technology skills, Microsoft office, keyboarding, job search techniques, and use Career Zone. They focus on the HSE-TASC exam which currently 13 students are about to sit for that exam. Intensive case management is also provided. Ms. Woody detailed what each participant was involved in currently. Mr. Knob stated that Best Resources was also under expended for Paid Work Experience and asked how it would be remedied. Ms. Best said that they just started a group that will begin next week, where 5 more participants will go into retail and will have them start before Wednesday of next week. Ms. Best also said that because of their business relationships, the businesses will call and ask if they have any participants who can work. Ms. Woody let the Board know of a success story with a participant. He was a homeless young who got his HSE and Security Guard license, did his internship with DPW and after 10 weeks has a full time job with DPW in the City of Newburgh.

**WIOA FUNDING DISCUSSION AND VOTE:** Mr. Knob stated that last year, there was a major funding cut and Orange-Ulster BOCES was eliminated from the Out of School Youth Program. This year the funding has been increased. Last year's allocation was \$300,000.00 and this year's allocation will be \$450,000.00. Two years ago ETA released a three year RFP. Respondents were Orange-Ulster BOCES, SUNY Orange and Best Resources. The first year, all three programs were funded. The 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Orange-Ulster BOCES was eliminated and SUNY Orange and Best Resources were funded. After speaking to the Law Department, Mr. Knob stated that since this year was year 3 of the RFP the WDB has the option to allow funding for Orange-Ulster BOCES. Since Best Resources is struggling to get 30 participants and SUNY Orange doesn't need more money to conduct their program, Mr. Knob's recommendation would be to award \$150,000.00 each to Orange-Ulster BOCES, SUNY Orange and Best Resources. Mr. Knob asked Mr. Carnright, the Adult Ed. Director of BOCES, to speak about BOCES ability to run a youth program. Mr. Carnright stated that BOCES has two new locations, (focus will be in Newburgh), which will give them a greater ability to provide space and case management services that are necessary to be successful. He also noted that the Charter School closing will lead to a greater need for youth services in Newburgh.

Mr. Knob asked for a motion to fund Orange-Ulster BOCES, SUNY Orange, and Best Resource Center Inc. for \$150,000.00 each for the period of July 1, 2018 through July 1, 2019. Mr.

Glasper made the motion. Dr. Nagpal seconded. Motion to approve funding as recommended unanimously approved. Mr. Kohn and Mr. Carnright abstained.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS:** The Job Fair was held this past Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. This year, 106 employers registered to attend. 7 employers didn't show, probably due to the storm. There were more job seekers this year with approximately 500 attending. Ms. Blair stated that the employer feedback was very positive.

Since a quorum was present, the January and March minutes needed to be approved. Mr. Knob asked for a motion to approve the January 19<sup>th</sup> and March 16, 2018 minutes. Mr. Yorke made the motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Nagpal seconded. Mr. Kohn abstained. Minutes were unanimously approved.

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