

**Orange County Workforce Development Board Meeting  
Friday, November 15, 2019 – 8:00 a.m.  
Orange Works Career Center  
18 Seward Avenue – 2nd Floor Conference Room  
Middletown, NY**

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

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

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**PRESENT:** Gillian Barrett, Olga Campos, Susan Dean, Mary DeFreitas, David Kohn, John Malmgreen, Dr. Kunwar Nagpal, Cathy Parlapiano, Scott Perry, Charles Quinn, Fran Schafer – **QUORUM PRESENT**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS:** Mr. Knob welcomed everyone before calling the meeting to order. He asked everyone to introduce themselves. Since a quorum was present, he asked for a motion to approve the May 17, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Perry made motion to approve minutes as presented and Ms. Schafer seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

**SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM REPORT:** Mr. Michael Raymond, the new Youth Coordinator, reported on his first Summer Youth Employment Program. He distributed a handout with statistics from this year’s program. The program is designed to provide youth from ages of 14-20 with summer work experience. They must be residents of Orange County. The program ran for five weeks during July and August. All participants earned the NYS minimum wage of \$11.10 per hour and were able to 30 hours a week. The participating worksites included city, county, state municipalities, camp facilities, hospital and not-for-profit agencies. One of the participating youth was offered employment at Crystal Run Healthcare after the program ended and she is doing very well in her continued employment with Crystal Run Healthcare. Mr. Knob thanked Mr. Raymond for an excellent job this summer.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Mr. Knob announced that the Fall Job Fair held in October at the Newburgh Mall had a record number of employers at 108. There were approximately 400 job seekers in attendance. Mr. Knob asked if members were having trouble hiring good candidates to which everyone replied yes. Ms. Schafer reported that at times when candidates successfully complete their two week training period in healthcare, they do not show up to begin work. Lack of transportation and child care are two major obstacles that employers feel prohibit candidates from taking positions. Ms. Blair added with the unemployment rate being so low the trend of the customers seeking employment services at the One Stops includes many job seekers that have multiple barriers and need additional services before they can become job ready. Mr. Knob stated that Ms. Patsalos, ETA’s Welfare-to-Work Coordinator, recently reported that the number of families receiving TANF services has decreased. The number used to be over 1000 in the county. Now that number of cases is down to approximately 385. However, there has been an increase in the number of cases for single safety net individuals (those not on a family case). This number now is approximately 700. This population is mostly single males and/or recently incarcerated. Mr. Knob stated that in general the number of people coming in for services is down. Recently, the training policy was changed to increase the threshold for training, but not that many people are being put into training.

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:** Orange County received \$715,000.00 for an Opioid Employment Grant which is designed for dislocated workers who have had a problem with opioid use. Additionally those family members or friends that have been affected by the opioid crisis can be served by this grant. ETA is working with ADAC and Catholic Charities to recruit participants for the program. ETA contracts with ADAC to provide recovery coaches to

those enrolled in the program. The Recovery Coaches help participants navigate through their issues so that they will be successful once employed.

Ms. DeFreitas said that employers need to start looking outside the box when it comes to hiring employees. ACCESS-VR and other agencies have a pool of potential workers who are looking for work. There are many college graduates and employers can try them out and ACCESS-VR will pay the wage of the applicant. Ms. Patella encouraged the WDB members who are looking for employees to contact her to see how ACCESS-VR can be of service. ACCESS-VR can pay for certifications and serves 5 counties.

Mr. Knob announced that ETA needs to change the WIOA Adult threshold allowance of a minimum wage of \$12.00 per hour in order to be served under the WIOA Adult program. The current policy is a wage of \$12.00 an hour and/or working less than 35 hours a week. The minimum wage will be changing to \$11.80/hour beginning January 1, 2020 so the WIOA Adult threshold allowance needs to be adjusted as well. ETA needs to raise that amount to \$15.00 per hour so that customers who are under-employed can still receive services and ultimately have them earn a livable wage.

Mr. Knob asked for a motion to approve the increase of the WIOA Adult threshold allowance from \$12.00 to \$15.00 per hour, as presented. Mr. Perry made motion. Ms. Parlapiano seconded the motion. Vote taken and unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.