

**Orange County Workforce Development Board Meeting
Friday, January 17, 2020 – 8:00 a.m.
Orange Works Career Center
18 Seward Avenue – 1st 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.

PRESENT: Ellen Anderson, Olga Campos, Andrew Carnright, Amanda Dana, Susan Dean, Mary DeFreitas, Lisa Halpern, Dr. Kunwar Nagpal, Cathy Parlapiano – **QUORUM PRESENT**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS: Mr. Knob welcomed everyone before calling the meeting to order. Since a quorum was present, he asked for a motion to approve the November 15, 2019 meeting minutes. Dr. Nagpal made motion to approve minutes as presented and Ms. Parlapiano seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION: MR. BILL FIORAVANTI, O.C. DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Fioravanti previously worked for the Orange County Partnership for five years and currently has been the Director of Economic Development for the past year and a half. Mr. Fioravanti still works with the Partnership on site selection for businesses coming into the County, and also he works on business retention and attraction. Accessibility to clean water for businesses is a big issue. Trying to get municipalities to be more business friendly and ready for development is another issue. Mr. Fioravanti is looking at what kind of jobs and careers are wanted and needed in the area. Careers with great futures are needed in this area. He stated that 36% of future jobs do not even exist yet and the Tech field offers the biggest promising future. A pipeline of talent needs to be developed with students at a young age. Schools in the Newburgh area have elementary students at the Newburgh Armory learning the principles of coding being taught by P-Tech kids from the Excelsior Academy. Students can join a Coding Club who can then join P Tech. Middletown High School offers Robotics and has an Academy of IT. These programs need to be replicated and embraced. Mr. Fioravanti said that there was an explosion of business attraction. Legoland will bring 1300 jobs with 500 full time jobs. Amy’s Kitchen will employ 700 people when they open. Medline will be employing another 700 people. Amazon, if they come to the area, will employ 600. McKesson employs just under 200 and Amerisource Bergen employs approximately 150 people. Twenty hotels have been built or are currently being built or in the works. Manufacturing and Warehouse Distribution certificate programs could be offered by SUNY Orange or Orange-Ulster BOCES. Hospitality is an upcoming field that will be necessary for all the hotels opening in the future. Mr. Fioravanti suggested finding an intermediary to develop relationships between educators and employers to work together to reach out to students for future employment/career opportunities.

Mr. Carnright stated that Orange-Ulster BOCES offered space for the Hudson Valley Tech Fest this past October. BOCES is working on offering a professional IT Support Certificate for Adult Education. Mr. Fioravanti spoke about the Tech Fest, which was a two day conference held in October.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Mr. Knob announced that Ms. Blair will be retiring at the end of March after thirty plus years of service. She currently runs the Career Centers and was the Youth Coordinator prior to running the Career Centers. He stated that unemployment is at a record low and finding a qualified workforce has been difficult. Welfare to Work numbers are at a record low being under 500. Three or four years ago that number was at 1200. The people still on welfare are difficult to serve, with many barriers to employment. The fifty plus population are

having the most difficulty in finding employment. Homelessness is up in Orange County as well. People simply cannot afford to rent, even though they may be working.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.