

**Orange County Workforce Development Board Meeting
Friday, May 20, 2022 – 8:00 a.m.
Zoom Meeting**

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: Gillian Barrett, Heather Bell-Meyer, Mark Casey, Amanda Dana, Susan Dean, Mary DeFreitas, William Edwards, John Emminger, Lisa Halpern, Elizabeth Holbrook, David Kohn, Tarsha McNeil, Angela Patella, Charles Quinn

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS: Mr. Knob welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for being present. He introduced Mr. Steve Gross, Economic Development Director, who was the former Commissioner of Human Resources.

He asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the March 18th WDB meeting. Mr. Edwards made the motion and Ms. Barrett seconded. Vote taken and passed unanimously.

YOUTH FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS AND VOTE: Mr. Knob thanked Mr. Raymond, Youth Coordinator, for putting the performance numbers together for all three subcontractors from the past two years. The numbers are good but there needs to be an increase in Work Experience numbers. The pandemic has made things difficult as far as getting out of school youth to work on site but 20% of funding needs to be spent on work experience. The subcontractors must do more work experience for the out of school youth for the upcoming program year. One of the issues that OCCC and BOCES both had was getting the participants on their payrolls. They were dealing with union issues, seasonal issues, how the participants would be paid and what they would be called. It became frustrating for the program folks at OCCC and BOCES. Mr. Knob and Mr. Raymond met with the O.C. Payroll and Human Resources Departments. It was determined that the Summer Youth line can be kept open to keep hiring participants year-round. This will be the mechanism that will be used to hire the participants which will make it much easier to bring participants on board. The subcontractors will still develop the worksites and work with the employers and ETA will get the worksite agreements together and Orange County will be the employer of record.

Mr. Knob gave an overview of the Youth Program Proposal Review and Recommendations for PY 2022-2023 and asked if anyone had any questions. Ms. DeFreitas asked if there was any outreach to rural areas by the subcontractors instead of just the cities. There are participants that live in the rural areas (Pine Bush, Deerpark) that do come into the cities for the programs.

Organization	Amount Requested	Proposed # of Youth to be Served	Amount to be Awarded PY'2022-2023
Orange-Ulster BOCES	\$213,118.00	40	\$180,000.00
Orange County Community College	\$227,425.44.	32	\$227,425.00
Best Resources Center Inc.	\$175,000.00	30	\$150,000.00

Mr. Knob asked if there were any further questions or discussion. There being none, he asked for a motion to approve recommendation as presented. Mr. Quinn made the motion to accept as presented. Ms. Halpern seconded. Vote was taken and unanimously approved as presented. Mr. Kohn abstained.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BY-LAWS FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD: The By-Laws have not been updated in quite some time. There are just minor changes to be made regarding frequency of the WDB meetings, ETA’s former address and date of approval, will be updated. The verbiage consists of

information from the legislation and regulations and how the Board operates along with how WIOA plays into this. Mr. Knob asked if anyone wanted to make any changes to the existing By-Laws and there were none suggested.

Mr. Knob asked for a motion to approve the By-Laws with the minor changes mentioned. Ms. Bell-Meyer made the motion to approve. Ms. Patella seconded. Vote taken and approved unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ONE STOP OPERATOR AGREEMENT: The current operator is a consortium made up of O.C. Employment and Training Administration-Steve Knob, Orange-Ulster BOCES-Lori Yakawiak, NYS Department of Labor-John Emminger and Orange County Community College-David Kohn. DSS is not an operator but is considered a partner as they fund staff in the One Stop Centers. The legislation requires that we select an operator to review the One Stop operations. Every five years, we have to RFP who the operator will be. Mr. Knob asked Ms. DeFreitas to review the RFP with Ms. Parlapiano and Ms. McNeil. Ms. DeFreitas stated that only one proposal was received, which was submitted by the consortium. The RFP hit all the marks and was easily reviewed and passed review. Ms. Dana asked when the RFP went out and if any other entity has ever submitted an RFP. This year's RFP went out in March. Years ago only one outside entity submitted an RFP in addition to our consortium's submittal. The entity was "Tomorrow's Workplace", a group out of Connecticut, which runs a number of career centers in Connecticut, and have expanded into other states. Their cost was \$300,000.00 and our consortium's cost was \$10,000.00.

Mr. Knob asked for a motion to approve the Consortium as the One Stop Operator. Mr. Edwards made the motion to approve as presented. Ms. Halpern seconded. Vote taken and approved unanimously. Mr. Emminger and Mr. Kohn abstained.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PY'22 WIOA BUDGET: Mr. Knob stated that we are pretty much flat funded. The carrying numbers right now are just an estimate but probably could be more. We are struggling to spend money because the career centers have not been fully operational. We've lost several staff over the last couple of years due to retirement. When staff leaves, it frees up money, but additional staff have not been hired to fill the empty positions because there hasn't been a need. The Career Centers are operational, but we are not seeing a huge number of people coming in. The Labor Department is now fully open in Newburgh and Middletown. People can now see DOL staff with no appointment necessary, however, DOL staff members are still conducting virtual appointments with UI recipients. Trainings were not going on during the pandemic. Both OCC and BOCES were shut down. At the last meeting, the Board voted on raising the threshold on ITAs up to \$6,000, which will help those seeking CDL training. ETA entered into an agreement last year with Laborer's Local 17 to do a tuition-based apprenticeship program for 12 eligible participants.

Mr. Knob described the Budget handout in detail that was distributed. He highlighted the new funding for the Disability Resource Coordinator, Ms. Veronica Jones. It used to be a grant that we received every year, which is a spinoff of Social Services OTDA. Ms. Jones must get certified each year to keep her knowledge of Social Security up to date. The previous grant for the DRC was for \$81,000.00 but now under WIOA, has been increased to \$100,000.00. Also highlighted was the Gun Violence Prevention Program funding which Orange County received in September of 2021. The funding is for \$925,000.00 and it's for cities of Newburgh and Middletown. It was supposed to end in September, but the Governor has extended it until March of 2023. It has been a very successful program. Gift cards are used as incentives to be assessed, go through workshops, get a job, and retention at 30-60-90 days. Ms. Patsalos added that over 50 participants have been enrolled. As many as 30 people have gotten jobs and have received as much as \$1700 each. In addition, participants can be given support services to remove barriers to employment. For example, these efforts may include having their parking tickets paid off, receive work clothing/equipment, help with car repairs, help getting their driver's license back or other related barriers. Ms. Jen Delvalle in Newburgh and Ms. Evelyn Fields in Middletown are the Coordinators of the Program. They are getting a lot of referrals from Probation. Mr. Quinn asked Ms. Patsalos if they were getting referrals from RECAP. Ms. Patsalos responded that she didn't believe they were. Mr. Quinn will look into getting referrals from RECAP for the program.

He asked if there were any questions. There were no questions and he then asked for a motion to approve the PY'22 Budget as presented. Ms. Barrett made the motion. Ms. Halpern seconded the motion. Vote taken and unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Knob reported that on June 1st ETA will be holding the first in person Job Fair at the Middletown Galleria since before the pandemic. There are 75 employers who will be present. ETA is spending quite a bit of money advertising and really putting the information out there to attract as many job seekers as possible.

ETA has partnered with Legoland to provide transportation for their employees. Legoland is looking to recruit employees from the Cities of Newburgh and Middletown. ETA offered to provide transportation to Legoland hiring events. As people were hired, we offered to help transport the employees. For Newburgh, there are currently 32 employees on the shuttle leaving from one pickup place. There are two vans operating daily, seven days a week. Legoland will pay \$3,000 a week to the County for the use of the vans for as long as we can do that. ETA can provide transportation for employers who might need the service if there are enough riders on the van.

Mr. Knob asked Mr. Raymond to talk about the upcoming Summer Youth Program, which begins on July 5th. At this point, applications are still being accepted and interviews are proceeding. There are 300 work slots and 294 slots have been filled so far. He anticipates a better year than the past couple of years. There are many new worksites and many returning worksites.

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Kohn announced that SUNY Orange received the SUNY Reimagined Workforce Training Grant, which is focused on healthcare, particularly Pharmacy Technicians. SUNY Orange will be searching for a part-time Program Assistant. The program will be focused first in Newburgh and then in Middletown early next year. Also being worked on is a consortium grant called the SUNY Future of Work Center Grant. No information is available at this time until official word is received from the State. There is a cannabis workforce development grant which is also a consortium grant that is in the works. Details as to what quality of jobs will be available are not known. Lastly, another grant from the USDOL, also a consortium grant, Strengthening Community Colleges, looking at the 6 community colleges in the Hudson Valley, focusing on 3 career pathways, healthcare, hospitality and tourism and manufacturing.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022