

**Orange County Workforce Development Board Meeting
Friday, March 17, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.**

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, Olga Campos, Susan Dean, William Edwards, Lisa Halpern, David Kohn, Cathy Parlapiano, Scott Perry, Charles Quinn, Lori Yakawiak

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS: Mr. Knob welcomed everyone who was present and who was on zoom. There was not a quorum present so the minutes from the January 20, 2023 meeting could not be approved.

POWER POINT PRESENTATION OF ETA PROGRAMS: Mr. Knob introduced one of ETA’s employees, Ms. Maria Garcia, who moved up to Orange County from NYC in 1997 and who initially used the services offered to her through DSS to her advantage. She sought services through ETA and enrolled at BOCES to learn computers and office skills. Ms. Garcia got a job with RECAP upon completion of her program at BOCES. After two years, she got a job with the Employment and Training Administration where she started as a Typist I. Ms. Garcia has received several promotions from a Junior Case Manager and recently was promoted to a senior position of Senior Case Manager of the JRT Program (Job Readiness Training Program). There were several candidates for that position, and Ms. Garcia helped each one with their resume and interview preparation. Ms. Garcia surpassed the other candidates with her enthusiastic interview skills and was chosen for the position. Ms. Patsalos and Mr. Knob praised Ms. Garcia for her outstanding work and her professionalism.

Ms. Patsalos, Supervisor of Employment Services, Career Centers, and Welfare to Work, introduced her staff members who oversee the programs in the Career Centers. ETA Programs include the Welfare to Work Program (WTW), the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA), Youth Programs and Gun Violence Prevention (GVP).

The Welfare to Work Unit is subcontracted by DSS for all employment and training services. There are three locations in Orange County: Newburgh, Middletown, and Port Jervis. The WTW Program is fully integrated in the One Stop System: WIOA, NYSDOL, SUNY Orange, Orange-Ulster BOCES and OC DSS partnerships. The Orange County WTW Unit is a leader in NYS for program design and outcomes and has been consistently ranked number one in NYS in participation and engagement for medium size counties. Staff assisted job placements countywide, for pre-covid, averaged over 100 per month.

The Job Readiness Training (JRT) Program consists of two parts. The first week consists of workshops with Ms. Garcia. Also completed is TABE testing for math and reading, career exploration, goal setting soft skills training, vocation training exploration, GED/ESL, interviewing skills, resume writing and career development plan. The second part of JRT consists of job search activities for three weeks. These activities include individualized and informal meetings with a job placement specialist, daily job seeking including online applications, ETA van transportation for job interviews, continued focus on soft skills, when employed, staff serves as a link between employer and employee and post-employment support and retention services.

Support services include childcare, transportation, clothing vouchers, tools and equipment, job related safety equipment, car repairs, car insurance, car seats, driving lessons, career counseling, referrals to other needed services and On the Job Training (OJT) agreement with employers.

Mr. Michael Raymond talked about the Career Centers, located in Newburgh and Middletown. There are two types of customers: Job Seekers and Business Services. Job Seeker Services include: job search assistance/job

referrals, on-site and off-site recruitments, career counseling, resource room computers (internet access for job search and career exploration, resume writing assistance/online resume-building tools), training opportunities for qualified customers, Metrix online learning, labor market statistics, referrals for supportive services (childcare, transportation).

Business Services include: qualified job seeker referrals/job matching, job order listings, OJT (On The Job Training), layoff/transition assistance, economic development resources/initiatives, on-site and off-site recruitments.

Ms. Karina Fabiano spoke about Youth Services. They include The SUNY Orange Youth Empowerment Program which engages out-of-school and unemployed youth to reconnect them with educational and workforce systems. This program is held on the Middletown campus and is for youth 16-24.

Orange-Ulster BOCES offers the Second Chances Program which provides students with a variety of opportunities and support services for at risk youth that have been unsuccessful in traditional education settings.

Best Resource Center serves at risk youth who are economically disadvantaged and facing barriers to employment and education. They offer mentoring, work experience, high school equivalency and ESL service.

Summer Youth Employment Program is designed to provide economically disadvantaged youth from the ages of 14-20 years old with a summer work experience. The youth need to be Orange County residents. The program runs for five weeks from July 5-August 4. All employees earn the NYS minimum wage of \$14.20/hour and can work up to 30 hours per week. Employment worksites include city, county state municipalities, camp facilities and not-for-profit agencies.

Ms. Jennifer DelValle talked about the Gun Violence Prevention Initiative. She oversees the program in Newburgh and Ms. Evelyn Fields oversees the program in Middletown. The Career Centers, in conjunction with the Workforce Development Board, partners with the NYSDOL to provide job training, job search assistance, placement and retention to 185 youth ages 18-24 (120 Newburgh/65 Middletown). The program includes an extensive assessment, career exploration, training, and job placement assistance. Retention services are also provided to ensure the success of the participants in the workforce.

Support services for the GVPI include transportation, Assistance accessing childcare, work clothes and shoes, tools, driving lessons, funding to pay for identification card, possible funding to pay for driver's permit, fines, etc. Participants receive incentive gift cards upon completion of steps throughout the program.

Milestones of the GVPI are that currently approximately \$75,000 in milestone gift cards have been provided, over \$1,000 in "supportive services" gift cards and thousands in assisting with transportation needs, staff have found their customers 75 jobs out of which 47 have completed employment milestones, many have continued to pursue positive changes for their future including short term training, college, new housing opportunities, driving licenses and obtaining better jobs.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Knob adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: MAY 19, 2023 – VOTE MEETING