

ORANGE COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2017 – 8:00 a.m.

18 Seward Avenue, 2nd 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.

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PRESENT: Ellen Anderson, Olga Campos, Mary DeFreitas, Dr. James DeViscio, Cedric Glasper, Dr. Brij Gupta, Lisa Halpern, Craig Jacobs, John Malmgreen, Dr. Kunwar Nagpal, Daniel O’Shea, Scott Perry, Charles Quinn, Peter Romano, Dennis Yorke

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS: Ms. DeFreitas welcomed everyone before calling the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Mr. Knob introduced two new WDB members, Mr. Scott Perry, Vice President of Atlas Security Services and Ms. Lisa Halpern, Chief Operating Officer of Rapid Rim Repair, LLC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Since there was a quorum present, the WDB meeting minutes from the March 17, 2017 were unanimously approved. Motion made by Dr. DeViscio to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Mr. Malmgreen.

WIOA YOUTH PROGRAM FUNDING: Mr. Knob distributed handouts detailing the WIOA Youth Contractors Performance numbers for the current program year (July, 2016 through June, 2017) and comparing the performance numbers from the last program year (July 2015 through June 2016). Last year in 2016, an RFP was released for WIOA year round youth funding. Contracts were issued for a three year period to SUNY Orange, Best Resource Center Inc. and Orange-Ulster BOCES. These contracts can be renewed every year. Orange County is facing a budget cut of \$100,000.00 in WIOA youth funding. Mr. Knob explained the charts, comparing PY’ 2015 with PY’2016, consisting of each youth contractor’s budget and performance. In PY’15, the budget was \$540,000.00. In PY’16, there was \$400,000.00 available. As it stands now, there is \$300,000.00 available. The Board must now decide how to re-allocate the available funds. Ms. DeFreitas asked about WIOA Recognized Certification. WIOA recognized certifications include CNA, medical office assistant, etc. SUNY Orange has been the top performer in this category. The youth program consists of out-of-school, disadvantaged youth under the age of 25.

The goal of the youth programs is to get the youth their diplomas and then into training or employment. In comparing the stats from both years and from each category, BOCES underachieved in all categories except “Achieved TASC (HS Diploma)”.

In fairness to all three youth contractors, Dr. DeViscio, from BOCES and Mr. DeFeo, from SUNY Orange, were excused from the discussion since there was no representation from Best Resource Center Inc. Discussion continued and it was agreed that SUNY Orange was the top performer. SUNY Orange runs the youth program out of Middletown. BOCES and Best Resource Center Inc. run only out of Newburgh.

After lengthy discussion, a recommendation was made to award SUNY Orange \$150,000.00 and increase their projected enrollment from 30 to 35 students and to award Best Resource Center Inc. \$150,000.00 and increase their projected enrollment to 30 from 25. BOCES would not be funded this program year.

Mr. Glasper made a motion to award SUNY Orange the amount of \$150,000.00 and increase their projected enrollment from 30 to 35 students and to award Best Resource Center Inc. the amount of \$150,000.00 and increase their projected enrollment from 25 to 30 students. A second was made by Mr. O'Shea. A vote was taken and unanimously approved with abstentions from Mr. Craig Jacobs and Mr. Scott Perry.

WIOA TRAINING FUNDS DISCUSSION/RESOLUTION: Mr. Knob distributed a handout detailing WIOA Funded Training Programs. The Adult/Dislocated Worker Program will be cut by \$160,000.00.. Mr. Knob and Ms. Blair met with line staff and a few employers to strategize possible changes to deal with the cuts as well as to determine what employers needs are. Currently, the threshold is \$2,000.00 for training in high demand occupations. Mr. Knob's handout listed the main training programs we fund, the providers, and the cost of each training program.

The Board discussed possibly having each individuals pay a percentage of their tuition, perhaps 10% for everyone. The feeling was that partial payment by the participant would solicit more of a commitment on the trainee's part to complete the training successfully. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that every participant would pay 10% of their training cost up front before an ITA was issued for the balance. An exception would be made for an individual who was found to be 200% of the current poverty guidelines. Those individuals, after presenting sufficient qualifying income, would be exempt from paying the 10%.

It was further discussed by the Board to increase the funding threshold from \$2,000.00 to a maximum of \$4,000.00. This will allow eligible Adults and Dislocated Workers to participate in high demand training courses that lead to higher paying positions.

Additionally, in another attempt to ensure that potential training customers were committed to their training program, Mr. Knob and Ms. Blair would finalize a plan that incorporated an additional step before an ITA could be issued. This will include participants attending at least 2 career center workshops.

Mr. Knob asked for a motion to raise the cap for classroom training to \$4,000.00. Participants will pay 10% of the cost, unless they are 200% of the poverty level or less. Ms. Anderson made the motion as presented. Mr. Yorke seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved with Dr. DeViscio abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Knob reported that the annual job fair at the Galleria was held earlier in the week. It was a light crowd this year for job seekers with a 4.2% unemployment rate. 87 employers were present this year.

Dr. Gupta announced that new owners and new management have taken over at RIJ Pharmaceuticals. He will continue to be employed there and will continue as a Board member.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.