

COUNTY OF ULSTER

Workforce Development Board

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Ulster County Workforce Development Board Meeting November 15, 2022 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT – Tony Marmo, Don Lucarello, Frank Falatyn, Don Mapes, Michael Berg, Anthony Mignone, Jess Davis

MEMBERS ABSENT - Alejandro Cordova, Angela Patella, Ashima Butler, Brian Amthor, Christopher Marx, Coleen Macaluso, Desiree Lyle, Jim Ferraro, Joe McDole, John Eickman, Mary O’Connell, Maura McMahon, Michael Iapocce, Nels Leader, Sean Mahoney, Tamika Dunkley, Tina Buono, William McKnight

ALSO PRESENT – Sharon Williams, OET Director/WDB Director, Faith Golden, OET Deputy Director, Renee Pugliese, OET

The meeting was called to order at 3:39 pm by Tony Marmo, WDB Chair. There was a quorum.

1. **OPENING – TONY MARMO, BOARD CHAIR:**

Tony welcomed everyone to the meeting; we have some things to share.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Tony asked for a motion to approve minutes from September. Motion made by Frank Falatyn, seconded by Jess Davis. All in Favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

3. **FINANCIAL REPORT – FAITH GOLDEN, OET DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Faith presented the charts and graphs. We are in good shape in the Adult spending, we are slightly ahead. In Youth spending and Dislocated Worker spending, we are slightly under. In the first quarter or third of the year, we are usually under because our funding isn’t fully available yet. Now we have funds fully available and we have plenty of time left in the program year to spend these funds.

Discussion followed regarding training programs, any interest or anything new or different?

We are hosting a training provider meeting in January 2023 to go over course offerings, for instance training for fiber optics (Archtop).

4. **WORKFORCE SUMMIT 2 PREVIEW – TONY MARMO**

Tony and Sharon spoke about the next Workforce Summit to be held December 13, 2022 at the SUNY Ulster Kingston Campus. Invitations have gone out. Registration is until December 7th or until we reach our maximum. It will start at 8:30 am with some Danish pastries and coffee for breakfast. The summit will end at 12 noon with lunch immediately after.

Essentially, the plan is to update our team, the people involved in the first summit that was held in July. They broke out into five groups:

- Affordable Housing
- Employer Investment in Upskilling & Retention
- Transitions from Public Assistance Benefits to Employment
- Engaging Historically Excluded Populations in the Workforce
- Engaging Youth in Career Pathways

We will give a quick recap of where we are at and how we got to this point and do some updating of County statistics with respect to employment/unemployment, key jobs (Demand Occupations) and then get into those five workgroups. We will have facilitators for each of the five groups. Melinda Mack will not be joining this time.

There will be challenge questions to get the group going. We will come up with milestones and keep momentum going in between meetings. Next meeting will probably be in the Spring. Subgroups should meet in between the big meetings. At this summit on Dec. 13 we will hopefully move from a conversation group to a work and action group.

We will be working in partnership with the U.C. Economic Development Department, U.C. Dept. of Social Services and U.C. Tourism Department. There is a potential to have long term impact; there is a lot of change in the County, there is going to be continued job demand - iPark 87 and other projects are underway despite the workforce shortage. We have to remain optimistic. Key steps have started.

It was suggested that Childcare be a potential group to work on - Is it eligible for subsidy? We can talk to the Chamber regarding this. Elected State and potentially Federal Officials need to be connected; funding is needed.

There will be an email sent out with some logistics, info on parking at the summit location, etc. Perhaps a summary of the previous notes can be sent out with this email. We will also have them in the room at the Summit – to know where to start, how to move forward and advance initiatives.

The Demand Occupations list will continue to be worked on – adding emerging positions like fiber optics, while we are looking at potential training providers. The Executive Committee will be meeting in December with Johnny Nelson to discuss this and hopefully the Board will approve the list in January 2023.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT – Tony Marmo – Part of the focus is on whose term is up in July and start the process for next year. A get together will be planned possibly around New Year's to keep in touch and review our intentions. Part of the engagement part of this subcommittee is contacting people we haven't seen in a while to keep in touch etc.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES – Frank Falatyn – Of the five topics that came out of the first summit that we are going to be focusing on, there are two areas that have been taken on by the Workforce Development Board; one is Employer Investment in Upskilling & Retention and the other is Engaging Youth in Career Pathways. The Strategic Initiatives subcommittee is looking forward to the summit to take this to the next step.

The strategic initiatives subcommittee also talked about the Demand Occupations jobs. In the past Johnny Nelson of NYSDOL has provided a lot of data regarding this and up and coming jobs and where Ulster County and the Hudson Valley in general have workplace demands. There have been discussions about inviting other Board members to join in and help add to this job list, which would be welcomed as they may have ideas about their industry sector. OET has to go by the ONET codes. We would try to be a clearing house to create community partners, education partners and industry partners. What type resources are out there that go beyond the Ulster County Workforce Development Board?

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT – Sharon spoke on behalf of John. This group met in October. They are charged with how to best engage the outside community with OET and the work that we do and how we can benefit the residents

of Ulster County. An informational brochure was created why should people connect with Office of Employment & Training. The brochure is available to hand out and also an electronic version will be posted on our ulsterworks.com website – it shows our core values and benefits of working with OET from the job seeker and employer perspectives. The brochure is the first step; the group is proposing being on the Chambers’ radio show. We will endeavor to identify media sources that OET can tap into to promote the work that OET is doing.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT – The group did not meet last month, but the initial conversation will still stem from the work we did in the last summit in July. The goal will be identifying those in the County that are supporting youth employment, including PTEK, and how we can create that pipeline from youth engagement to employable adults.

Tony Marmo and Don Mapes are doing a podcast through Radio Kingston – more to come on that.

There was a discussion on the graphics of the tri-fold brochure, the electronic version is definitely clearer. Tony thanked everyone for their work on it.

6. DIRECTOR’S REPORT – SHARON WILLIAMS, WDB DIRECTOR

Ulster County has a new/revitalized department called the Department of Innovation which is looking into each department’s core values. OET previously didn’t really have any core values - the OET team worked on this project for several weeks and came up with our core values: 1. Welcoming – 2. Collaborative – 3. Community Oriented – 4. Professional – 5. Service-Driven. We have depicted these in the new tri-fold brochure. This will ultimately be posted on everything we do so that people really know who we are at OET.

Discussion followed regarding In Demand Occupations – We are to see what needs to be modified, are titles outdated, etc. We try to stay ahead of the trend relevant to Ulster County residents – working with Johnny Nelson. A question was raised if a bilingual version will be done – Michael Berg offered translation services to us.

The Budget has not been approved yet, but the County is proposing a 5 million dollar allocation to workforce development. There will be a proposal to the County Executive’s Office to extend the SYEP program by 2 or 3 weeks. Can be also used towards business support services/training in fields we cannot fund such as the cannabis industry possibly. By a Federal standpoint, we are unable to support any endeavors because cannabis is still illegal even though it has been legalized here in the States.

7. MOTION TO ADJOURN – TONY MARMO

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.

**ULSTER COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023
3:30 PM**