

COUNTY OF ULSTER

Office of Employment and Training

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Patrick K. Ryan, Ulster County
Executive

Tomasine Oliphant, Director

Ulster County Workforce Development Board Meeting (via Zoom) November 10, 2020 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT – Donald Lucarello, Evelyn Wright, Tom Scaglione, Stephen Casa, John Eickman, Arnaldo Sehwerert, Anthony Mignone, Sean Mahoney, Angela Patella, William McKnight, Chris Marx, Tony Marmo, Alex Cordova, Michael Berg, Nels Leader

MEMBERS EXCUSED - Frank Falatyn, Mike Iapocce, Janet Knott, Jim Ferraro, Donald Mapes Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT - Heidi Rosborough

ALSO PRESENT – Tomasine Oliphant, OET Director/WDB Director, Faith Golden, OET Deputy Fiscal Director, Lisa Snyder, OET, Melinda Mack NYATEP Director, Evelyn Ortiz, NYATEP, Laura Petit, U.C. Legislator

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm by Sean Mahoney WDB Chair. There was a quorum.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Sean asked for a motion to approve minutes from September. Motion by John Eickman, seconded by Tony Marmo. All in Favor.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT: Faith Golden, OET Deputy Director

Faith shared first report to board. Went over in-house costs and training costs. We are required to spend 80% of annual allocation by end of program year. We are one-third of the way through the year, a little behind in youth, but doing okay. We don't have NOA yet. Once that is released, we can push ahead with spending money. Faith went over funding sources and accrued expenses, carry-in money. Carry-in money helps us get through the first part of the year. Spoke about OJTs in process. Went over Youth, Adult and DW expenses. Work experiences are starting back up again. Faith discussed where we want to be spending-wise. We are not too far off. We still have time yet before the end of the year, so we have plenty of time to catch up. Arnaldo asked Faith if there is a cash flow problem. Faith stated the State has been slow, and that we request cash every two weeks. The state has been taking 2-2 ½ weeks to send money that used to take a week. Arnaldo asked about having a reserve – we can't with Federal money; but can with past grants.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Tomasine Oliphant, Director

Tomasine stated she will reach her one-year mark in December with OET and thanked everyone for their support. We are very happy to have DOL back in the building with us. DOL is back at 20%. Tomasine mentioned Bill Becker's return and how helpful it has been to have him back. We have a great set-up here at the Career Center and keeping everyone safe, adhering to social distancing and wearing masks.

Tomasine spoke about the Healthcare Roundtable scheduled for next week in partnership with SUNY Ulster and Ulster BOCES to learn about training needs. We had the first Green Coalitions meeting that was very successful. Next meeting is being planned. Tomasine has also been working with Youth Build and building a partnership with them. Tomasine stated that Evelyn Wright, Deputy County Executive will be taking Lisa Berger's place on the board. Discussed Career Pathways. We are seeing a higher number of individuals coming into the Career Center. Discussed Business Services: job matching, new businesses starting up. We are trying to collaborate more. Tony asked if we were seeing many people from the metropolitan area. Tomasine will get that information to Tony. Tomasine stated that we have 434 individuals actively taking Coursera courses to upskill and re-skill. Tony stated that they are seeing an uptake in job orders: administrative, financial, customer service, warehouse, hospitality, etc. Tony feels that this is a good sign. The issue is there aren't enough qualified people to fill these positions. What training can we provide to help these individuals? Tomasine spoke about the Dress for Success Program for interview clothing, which can help. Tony said there is need for training in other areas such as customer service, direct care professionals, etc. Tomasine said she is working with Chris Marx in finding pathways for training these individuals. Arnaldo spoke about how even college students are not prepared for jobs yet. Discussion followed.

Sean introduced Melinda Mack, NYATEP Director.

4. NYATEP PRESENTATION: A New Way Forward: Bold Action to Reshape New York's Labor Market – Melinda Mack, NYATEP Director

Melinda introduced her colleague, Evelyn Ortiz. Melinda spoke about a diverse network of leaders across New York State. Not as much money available as in past years and the pandemic has impacted different areas. Melinda shared report. Discussed pandemic unemployment numbers and increase in Social Services. There still aren't enough jobs for those who are unemployed. Spoke about slow recovery for key sectors. Discussed stimulus package for workforce development and expanding investments. Where do we need to focus? Stabilizing economy, increase number of people ready to work, rebuild, rethink and reform pathways, increase diversity of the types of jobs available. How to make sure money is spent where it is most needed. Melinda stated that this report is evidence-based.

Evelyn Ortiz stated that WDBs have the opportunity to support these recommendations. As much support as possible is needed. It is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved. Sean stated that the ideas laid out in the plan were great. Does this go to State Legislature? Melinda said first stop was Governor's Office and it was well-received. Next step is the State Legislature. Discussion followed. Need to get as much feedback as possible. Michael asked about the income barrier being implemented. Melinda stated that there is interest, but how to get it rolled out as a county or state program. Chris spoke about how SUNY Schools can make pathways work. Discussion followed. Sean spoke about addressing employment in a pandemic. Melinda explained about money that comes from Governor's Office and CARES Act monies and how they should be most effectively used. Melinda stated that Evelyn and herself are available for any questions or want to learn more, they are more than happy to present again.

5. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Sean asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Angela Patella. Seconded by John Eickman. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm.

**ULSTER COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, January 12 , 2021**

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