

Workforce Development Board of Oswego County
Full Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Oswego County Workforce New York

“The mission of the Workforce Development Board of Oswego County is to attract, develop and maintain a qualified workforce for the Oswego County community, to assist in economic development by convening community leaders to engage in strategic planning and facilitating dialogue to educate and train the workforce needed by today’s and tomorrow’s businesses.”

PRESENT:

Tania Anderson	Marq Brown	Brian Chetney	Dave Goodness
Patrick Harrington	Peter Naughton	Andrew Quinn	Christopher Todd
L. Michael Treadwell	Heather Vashaw	Garrette Weiss	

ABSENT:

Eric Behling	Diane Cooper-Currier	Aaron DeBolt	Wagner Dotto
Stephanie Earle	Louise Hand	Greg Hilton	Keiko Kimura
Joseph Murabito	Bruce Phelps	Patrick Sheppard	Piper Titus

OTHERS:

Zoë Vandermeulen	Rachel Pierce	Nick Gratch	Brittney Jerred
Kim Sizemore	Brian Heffron	Alexis Cummins	

MINUTES

A. Welcome & Introductions – Marq Brown

Marq Brown called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was not established.

B. Board New Business-Marq Brown

- Board New Business was not discussed today. Since there was no quorum, the Board could not vote to approve/deny the items. Rachel will call a Special Executive Committee Meeting to vote on new business.

C. ETPL-Kim Sizemore

- Review of items submitted on ETPL that were voted & approved on during the Special Executive Committee Meeting held August 29, 2022. There was a new request submitted that will be discussed/voted on for approval in the Special Executive Committee Meeting.

D. Subcommittee Reports- Chair of Subcommittee

- 1. Business Development- Mike Treadwell, Operation Oswego County-** nothing new to report
- 2. Partners Roundtable- Keiko Kimura, Cayuga Community College-** Keiko was not in attendance. Rachel gave an update from the previous Partners Roundtable meeting- Oswego County will be hosting a Partners Forum on October 18th 2022, where partner agencies will sit on a panel and present services to other agencies. Zoë then expanded more on the forum in her One Stop Operator Report.
- 3. Skills & Training- Greg Hilton, Huhtamaki-** Greg was not in attendance.
- 4. Youth Council- Brian Chetney, Oswego City-County Youth Bureau-** Youth council will discuss the Youth Summit in the next meeting. Leadership Oswego County has kicked off and has had a good start so far.

E. One Stop Operator Report- Zoë Vandermeulen

- Zoë provided more insight on the upcoming Partner & Staff Forum. So far 5 Partners have confirmed to be on the panel- CCC, CiTi, OCWNY, OCO, Farnham Family Services After the panel presentations, participants will then go into breakout rooms to discuss needs and additional information together. This forum is a great opportunity to network.. Zoë has helped facilitate 2 previous forums in different counties that were both widely successful and well attended.

F. *One Stop Update- Kim Sizemore*

- Overall 90% of funds were obligated through all funding we received. We usually roll about 20% of funding into the 1st quarter of the next Program Year to over Wage & Fringe.
- CDL B Training class- OCWNY collaborated with Oswego County Mobility Management and CiTi to put together a CDL B Bus Driver training. We funded 7 participants and worked with the Oswego, Hannibal and Mexico School Districts. Hannibal hired 3 people, Oswego hired 1 person, Mexico was looking at 1, and 1 got hired externally from the program by Centro.
- EMT Training- working with Oswego County Emergency Management (EMO) & Menter Ambulance. We are funding participants through Menter with the OJT program- 9 participants were funded for an 11 week training program. We were also able to financially assist 3 participants in an EMT training class with scholarships and required books for the course. We will continue to partner with EMO to help fill vacancies in the industry.
- Employment Specialist Rachael Shelanskey interviewed and qualified 17 (13 Adult, 4 Youth) participants for the 2022-23 LPN class. OCWNY awarded scholarships from \$6,000 to \$10,000 dependent on qualifications. Rachael reached out to students to offer supportive services such as books and equipment as required by the course. Through a new initiative we were allowed to purchase and offer laptops to those students who needed one (pending meeting certain qualifications). OCWNY was able to qualify and prove 8 students with laptops (5 Adult, 1 DW, 2 Youth)
- Business Highlight- a new initiative based on a similar program being run by Fingerlakes Works. OCWNY will highlight a business within the county for 1 week giving an insight into the culture of an organization, current job openings, advancement opportunities, etc. After the weeklong highlight OCWNY will collaborate with the business to host a Job Fair. If any businesses are interested in participating please contact OCWNY
- Fall Job Fair- Being hosted 9/21 from 3:00-6:00. OCWNY is hoping for a great turnout!
- Upcoming Events- OCWNY will be attending a number of events in the next couple of months hoping to provide some outreach and inform the public about services offered. Garrette invited OCWNY to the Trades Fair on 9/21/22 from 9:00-2:00 and OCWNY confirmed they will attend.
- Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)- Originally placed 140 eligible youth and hired 9 summer staff. Overall the program was successful. For the upcoming year OCWNY has created an in house year round Employment Specialist position that will focus on SYEP during the program months. By doing this they hope to improve recruitment and retention strategies. Christopher Todd asked that the new Employment Specialist attend a meeting to do outreach with the Superintendent/counselors before the program starts.
- Center Security- OCWNY purchased a software called PeopleTrack that correlates with Mexico DSS software. It is an identification software that allows for ID scanning and checking customers in & documenting any issues if necessary.

G. *Directors Report- Rachel Pierce*

- Rachel briefly discussed the Firewall Agreement that needs to be voted on. Once voted on and approved, the agreement will need to be signed by Marq Brown & sent to the County Legislature. She also asked the board members for ideas on who to approach as a possible new board representative. Some suggestions were: EJ Fabrication, Felix Schoeller, Fulton Savings Bank, LD's on the Water, Tailwater Lodge. SUNY Oswego may be able to provide some ideas, as well as the Fulton Oswego Chamber of Commerce. To be discussed in more detail at a future meeting. The Board has recently purchased a new accounting software system called Accufund for OCWNY, which should be up and running by the end of October. Rachel recently attended a CNY Regional Economic Development Council meeting and asked the members of the board if anyone would be interested on sitting on a focus group to please let her know. Rachel also recently received an email from the State asking OCWNY to negotiate performance measures for PY22 and PY 23. She expects pushback on this as they have not received #'s from PY21 yet. OCWNY had their closing conference for their FOTA audit that focused on time in PY21. A potential finding was that there were 2 reviews of Subrecipient Monitoring for OCO but one of the reports was not issued to OCO. May be negated due to new staff to the board. Hope to receive the final report by the end of October. Rachel will start doing monthly desk reviews of OCO starting next month. NYS has issued a Program Guidance

Letter expanding the definition of Dislocated Worker. NYS has had a hard time across the state spending DW money, and by expanding the definition they will be able to do more with it. It now includes just about everybody who is collection Unemployment Benefits. OCWNY will be looking back to those funded beginning 7/1/22 to see if they can transfer funding sources. Rachel thanked the members who were able to attend the meeting in person on such short notice and asked the members of the executive committee to hold a special meeting in the next few weeks to vote on Items.

H. Roundtable- All

- **Mike Treadwell-** Working with Highland Animal Hospital in Central Square on a construction project. Hospital is expanding their current building into a 7,600 Sq Ft Facility. Roughly a 4 million dollar project. By expanding their facility they will be able to add an Urgent Care function, roughly 14 new employees. A company has made an offer on one of the Industrial Park sites that focuses on Clean Room Technology. Felix Schoeller is also in the process of doing a major expansion to incorporate a Coding Operation that may add roughly 10-12 jobs.
- **Tania Anderson-** ARISE is still struggling to fulfill positions.
- **Dave Goodness-** Recently started working on a VR project with a company out of Troy. They work with school districts and employers to help people get real life exposure to careers. They are trying to expand this throughout CNY. If any districts are interested in gaining access to this contact Dave to get it set up.
- **Andrew Quinn-** Novelis is currently doing well. They are fully booked through the end of March auto wise. They will be doing a Hot mill debottling project in the near future to try and speed up the hot mill.
- **Marq Brown-** Continues to be challenged to find talent. Seeing a lot of employees going into traveler positions as they can make up to 3x their hourly rate and that is very hard to compete with. They have contracted with 6 agencies throughout the country to try and fulfill positions. Likely to be a bumpy road for the next decade.
- **Heather Vashaw-** Pathfinder is opening a new branch in Syracuse, but still waiting for FDIC approval. Still struggling with turnover.
- **Brian Chetney-** Camp Hollis rebounded this year with numbers higher than in 2019. Have received 3 big grants to make stabilize the shoreline at Independence Trail, one at Camp Hollis for updates, and one to winterize the main building at Camp Hollis to allow it to be open year round. Have submitted some American Rescue Plans to try and bring facilities to the next level.
- **Christopher Todd & Garrette Weiss-** CT program has typically around 800 students but are now up to 900+. Trades programs are starting to get noticed. CiTi will be holding a Manufacturing Day 10/7 9-1 & Trades Day 10/21 9-2. Hosting multiple fields trips for students in the near future.
- **Patrick Harrington-** not seeing a shortage of applications, interviewing 300+ a year. Need for skills trades people is going to continue to grow. Training center is at max capacity, so they are looking to expand and double the size.

The Board agreed to convene an Executive Meeting to vote on operational matters.. Marq Brown asked for a motion to adjourn. Garrette Weiss made a motion to adjourn. Dave Goodness seconded the motion. The motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. **Location:** TBD