

**Workforce Development Board of Oswego County
Youth Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 8, 2023
Oswego County Workforce New York**

“The Youth Council shall assist in developing the local workforce plan pertaining to youth and youth services, approving eligible providers of youth services, coordinate youth workforce development activities, and oversee public relations about youth programs.”

“Creating pathways to better careers and economic growth.”

Minutes

Present: Kim Sizemore, Brian Chetney, Ellen Lazarek, Carla DeShaw, Tiffany Rush, Kathleen Joyce, Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski, Nicole Damboise, Alexis Cummins

Brian Chetney called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 9, 2023

Brian Chetney asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ellen Lazarek made a motion to approve the minutes. Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried.

2. Youth Training by Occupational Cluster – Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski

For Occupational Skills Training we completed 9 services in PY23 Q1 (CiTi-7, Jefferson Community College-1, OCM BOCES-1). For Paid Work Experience/On-the-Job Training we were able to place 25 young adults on paid work sites such as Fulton City School District, Davis Standard, Oswego County Opportunities, Majestic Mold, Unique Hair Shop, etc. Due to CTE programs we are able to start branching out to new employers. We had 34 Training Services by Occupation Cluster- 3 in Construction, 1 in Electrical, 3 in Healthcare, 25 Training Services to Businesses (Work Experience) & 3 in Transportation (CDL-A, CDL-B, Heavy Equipment).

3. PY 22 WIOA Training Plan Update- Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski

Numbers look skewed at the moment but by the next report they should be better. According to this report Paid Work Experience is 69% obligated, Supportive Services is 18% obligated, ITA's is 104% obligated (we saw a lot of youth coming in for training during the 1st quarter). Mentoring is 2% obligated and overall, we are 74% obligated for youth spending including operating expenses.

4. SYEP Update-Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski

Overall, we had a good program this past summer. We had 134 total youth eligible, 77 youth started and worked for at least 1 day. WE were unable to place 57 youth as a lot of those youth were 14–15-year-olds and we did not have any OC3 crews this year and historically that is where we have been able to place most of the 14–15-year-olds. We had 16 youth who were ineligible for the program, 10 incomplete applications, and 4 applications that were received past the deadline. Brian shared that they will be taking over Legends Fields in Oswego and that may open another site to be used.

5. Directors Report- Kim Sizemore

OCWNY submitted the USED A Distressed Area Recompete Program for phase 1 for strategic development to replicate the Syracuse Build model in Oswego County. Phase 2 will be implementation and we will apply for that if we receive the funding for phase 1. Our FOTA Comprehensive Audit has started. Rachel has been asked to join the Constellation Building Trades Pledge Oversight Committee. Phil Church, Rachel, and DSS representatives had a joint presentation to the Human Services and Economic Development committees regarding making OCWNY their own department. Legislatures will vote to schedule a public hearing for Local Tax to establish a new department in November, and the final vote to establish a new department will be held in December. Phil Church met with the leaders of the WDB committees last month to discuss the changes and any issues/concerns they had. CDL initiative- core team will be meeting soon to discuss the prototype and will be working on a training structure to present.

6. Roundtable Discussion

Kim Sizemore for Brian Heffron- CiTi is working with all component districts and Micron to establish events and activities that promote student participation in pathways that lead to careers in STEM. Focus areas include STEM outreach events for students in both elementary and middle school, professional development for instructors and staff, and community outreach events focused on parents. Trades / Union Expo is scheduled for November 17th at CiTi BOCES from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) hosts state seminars each year for high school sophomores. Students are nominated to attend these seminars from local school districts or other community agencies. New Vision and Fulton CSD student Adyson Shepard is assisting HOBY in raising awareness about these opportunities for youth. Adyson is available to come to speak about the seminar and its opportunity for youth in our region. Reach out to Brian for more information. The P-TECH, CTE, and New Vision programs are seeking additional Job Shadowing / Internship opportunities for the 2023/2024. Reach out to Brian Heffron for more information.

Kim Sizemore- OCWNY has changed their hiring event formats. In the past we would do individual events for companies, and now we will hold monthly mini job fairs for businesses. Some months will be industry specific and other months will be a mixture. The first job fair of this format was hosted on 11/7/23 and we had 5 businesses, and 13 participants attended. Our next job fair will be on 12/5. Kim also shared that Angela Ferlito is organizing a Community Job Fair @ Fulton High School on 11/15 from 5:00-8:00.

Ellen Lazarek- OCO is collaborating with Oswego County Prevention Coalition to host some events to discuss the opiate crisis. They will be bringing in Tracey Helton Mitchell to come and discuss her experiences. There will be a youth session at Back Street Books on 11/13 from 5:00-7:00 and an adult session at Steamers on 11/14 from 10:30-3:00 where she will do a keynote speaking engagement and then a strategic planning session will be held after. She feels this will be beneficial to the youth and will create some opportunities to foster some hope for the youth. Ellen also shared that OCO has been increasing their outreach efforts and are partnering with Farnham to increase curbside services to runaway/homeless youth. She also shared that she currently has 1 open workforce related position.

Kathy Joyce- Still hoping to hire a new VR counselor. It has been hard as not many people are going into the masters in rehab program. They are now allowed to accept someone who has a masters in Social Work but still waiting on a decision from Albany. As a result from the vacancy, Kathy is currently covering 5 school districts in Oswego County. She also shared that the current contract that they have with a lot of vendors ends on 12/31 and they are not sure yet who will be awarded contracts starting in January so they can't move forward on a lot of things at the moment.

Nicole Damboise- Early College High School program hosted 40 students over the summer in various departments. Overall students gave good reviews. They are looking for ways to expand experiences for these students as well. Marq Brown is going to national conferences to speak on this program in hopes of expanding it. Nicole also shared that Oswego Health has extensive tuition programs for their employees. (LPN students can receive up to \$10,000, RN students can receive up to \$20,000. BSN/MSN students can receive up to \$30,000). They have different pathways available for employees such as a phlebotomy pathway and a resident care aid-nursing pathway. She also shared that she is continuing to work with New Vision students and going to local colleges to discuss employment opportunities available with Oswego Health.

There were no further updates at this time. Brian Chetney called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Joyce motioned to adjourn; Kim Sizemore seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on February 14th, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. at the One Stop Center located at 200 N. 2nd Street, Fulton, NY 13069.