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**Workforce Development Board of Oswego County  
Youth Council Meeting  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024  
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:** Chena Tucker, Brian Chetney, Kelley Thurlow, Kathy Joyce, Brienne O’Neill, Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski, Nicole Damboise, Kim Sizemore, Brian Heffron, Sarah Yaw, Bridget Proulx, Alexis Cummins

**Brian Chetney called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.**

**1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 8, 2023**

Brian Chetney asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Chena Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes. Brian Heffron seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried.

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

For Occupational Skills Training we have done 15 services to date in PY23. (CiTi-13, Jefferson Community College-1, OCM BOCES-1). For Paid Work Experience/On-the-Job Training we were able to place 38 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 have been able to start branching out to new employers. We have had 53 Training Services by Occupation Cluster- 6 in Construction, 1 in Electrical, 3 in Healthcare, 38 Training Services to Businesses (Work Experience/OJT) & 5 in Transportation (CDL-A, CDL-B, Heavy Equipment). OCWNY has come up with a plan on how to best serve High School students and Elizabeth will share that information with Carol Taormina at CiTi. There will be no change to the way we offer work experience, but we will no longer be offering OCO mentoring/supportive services, drivers education or providing tools for in-school youth.

**3. PY 23 WIOA Training Plan Update- Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski**

For Youth funding our total customer training is 80% obligated with Work Experience being 128% obligated, and ITA’s being 110% obligated (these are the bulk of services we have been providing).

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Total Youth Funding is 94% obligated, but we will be processing some deobligations soon which will bring the numbers down slightly. Overall, we are in good shape.

#### 4. SYEP Update- Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski

The 2024 Summer Program is right around the corner. OCWNY is starting to prepare by updating and completing some background paperwork. The application should be available sometime early to mid-April (it will be available on our website, emailed out, and hard copies will be available in the office). We hope to have sites available this year so that we will be able to place some 14-15-year-olds as we weren't able to place many of them last year. We are not anticipating too much of an increase in the budget that we will receive for this summer so we will only be able to potentially serve 100-115 kids.

#### 5. Roundtable Discussion

**Kim Sizemore-** Rachel is in Washington D.C. this week participating in meetings for the Youth Systems Building Academy which is an initiative to help selected areas learn ways to increase and enhance employment opportunities for youth. We currently have access to county funding that is less restrictive, and we can use it to fill in the gaps where WIOA funding isn't allowed. We have scheduled our spring job fair for May 9th at the Lake Ontario Conference Center (the 1<sup>st</sup> hour will be for HS seniors, and 2:00-5:00 will be open to the public). OCWNY mini job fairs have been successful so far as attendance for each fair continues to grow. We host these job fairs on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month from 11:00-1:00 and we invite 5-8 businesses to attend. We have also started a "See Who's Here" event on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 11:00-1:00 and we invite community agencies to come in and promote their services to customers who are in the center. We are coming up on year 2 of the childcare bootcamp and we are trying to recruit participants for this program. Jefferson Community College and ICP provide training and paperwork assistance and we provide supportive services (computer, stipends, etc.). We are still working on a CDL initiative with CenterState CEO to coordinate with employers to provide drive time training and CiTi BOCES to provide classroom training. Menter Ambulance will be starting their next EMT academy on 3/18 and we have been completing pre-screening testing for them. They will also start another paramedic training course in August.

**Brian Chetney-** Youth Summit will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Oswego County Fairgrounds. They are still early in the planning stages but if you are interested in assisting, please let Brian know. So far there are 7 school districts committed to attending.

**Sarah Yaw-** Cayuga Community College is participating in the ASAP program which is a program that prioritizes on time completion and assists students with financial and academic support (they also provide childcare stipends for adult learners). They also have an EOP program available for all students who have financial and academic needs. If a student has undergrad plans after CCC they must opt into the EOP program when starting out at CCC or they will not be able to opt into the program at a participating undergrad school.

**Chena Tucker-** The Shineman foundation is rolling out a new community enrichment grant this year. These grants will be for assistance with finding creative solutions for community impact and will need a fiscal sponsor for it. There will be 4 rounds of this grant ranging from \$100-\$2,500. They are changing their strategic grants to 2 rounds per year (in April and October) and these will be for projects above \$7,500. They still offer their mini grants for 501c3 entities ranging from \$2,500-\$7,500.

**Nicole Damboise-** Oswego Health is working on defining career pathways for Nursing, Medical Imaging, and Phlebotomy Lab, and looking to see how they can support students who are going away for school. (These pathways are open to anybody 18+.)

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**Brian Heffron-** As part of the Career Connection series, CiTi BOCES has three more events for the remainder of the school year. The Health Careers Expo will be held on 4/12/2024, the Armed Forces and Public Safety Day will be held on 5/10/2024, and the Oswego County Drone Expo will be held on 5/31/2024. If interested in participating in these events, please reach out to Brian. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, Seniors in the CTE programs will participate in interviews with participating employers (focus on trades and manufacturing). Other individual programs are done separately. Skills USA just sent about 65 students to their regional competition and 15 of those students will be moving on to States. They have scholarships available for students who are pursuing careers after graduation (with a wide range of assistance available). ACT WorkKeys which is a national standardized assessment designed for individuals to assess their workplace skills, and designed for employers to give them information to help them understand what kind of candidate is walking through the door for an interview. They are pushing to get employers in Oswego County to start using and recognizing the assessment so that we can become a Work Ready Community. CiTi is also pushing to have the test become more accessible to students. Brian also shared a glimpse of the reality of the “Micron Bump” as P-Tech has recently opened their application process for Cohort 9 and have already received 43 applications. They will continue to accept for another month or so (they are still capped at 40 participants a year). Sarah Yaw reiterated that Workkeys will be a beneficial assessment for the community.

There were no further updates at this time. Brian Chetney called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sarah Yaw motioned to adjourn; Brian Heffron seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

**The next meeting will be held on May 8th, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. at the One Stop Center located at 200 N. 2nd Street, Fulton, NY 13069.**

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