

**Workforce Development Board of Oswego County
Youth Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 10, 2022
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.”

Minutes

Present: Brian Chetney, Alissa Viscome, Kim Sizemore, Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski, Leanna Cleveland, Ellen Lazarek, Rachel Pierce, Brian Heffron, Alexis Cummins

Brian Chetney called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2022

Kim Sizemore made a motion to approve the minutes. Ellen Lazarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Roundtable introductions were done as this committee has not met in person in a while and there were many new faces.

2. Youth Council Report - Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski

The Youth Council report reflects services during PY '21. Paid Work Experience is 84% obligated. (Paid Work Experience consists of sending youth out into the community for 13 weeks on the County's payroll. This allows them to gain references, professional experience, a sense of community, etc. It also encompasses the Private Sector where the youth is put on employer's payroll and the employer is reimbursed by us. Youth must be between 16-24 and meet certain eligibility criteria. For WIOA they must have a barrier to employment (HS dropout, Pregnant, Parenting, Self-Attestation of Disability, etc.) & low income. To qualify for Independence Through Employment (ITE) funding, they must be 16-24 and low-income. We have been partnering with CiTi lately to assist youth who are doing internships with employers, this allows them to get paid while they are learning. If you have any youth that you are working with that are interested, please send them to OCWNY and we will screen them for eligibility, or if you have any recruiting ideas, please share with us as we are finding it harder to find youth the way we did before Covid. Brian Heffron talked about utilizing school counselors and workforce liaisons to try and get a foot in the door at the school. Ellen brought up an event that she is interested in holding- a "Back to School" event held at the OCO Bookstore.

Supportive Services are 84% obligated, and Occupational Skills/ITA's are 111% obligated. Supportive Services encompass all the extras that we are able to provide- transportation assistance, work

clothing/shoes, equipment/tools, licensing fees, drivers education, incentives, etc. Overall, we are 89% obligated with the goal of attaining at least 80% obligated by the end of the PY year.

3. Youth Training by Occupational Cluster – Kim Sizemore

The report is based on PY 21. Most of our money went to CiTi BOCES- funding 7 total. CDL A & B had a totally of 5 participants in CiTi and NTTS programs. Providers must be on the ETPL to be funded by OCWNY. Overall, we funded 11 participants for CiTi BOCES, Helio Health and NTTS combined. 33 participants were funded for Work Experience/Internship through an array of businesses. Other training consisting of Alternative Secondary Education and Entrepreneurial Training saw 3 participants. We had 47 Training Services by Occupation Cluster- 1 in Automotive, 1 in Construction, 1 in Entrepreneurial Skills, 4 in Healthcare, 2 in Other (Alternative Secondary Education), 33 Training Services to Businesses (Work Experience) & 5 in Transportation (CDL-A, CDL-B, Heavy Equipment). Ellen stated that if anyone had any youth who are interested in healthcare or in need of CERPA hours that she may be able to help them.

4. Directors Report-Rachel Pierce

As the new Workforce Development Board Director- Rachel has joined the Early College High School program, and PTECH Governance. OCWNY is currently in the midst of a DOL Financial Audit for PY 21 which is focusing on the time period of January-March 2022. Currently, staff is submitting documents. For the youth program they are auditing 5 Work Experience, and 5 Incentive. Will have a report ready for the next meeting. We submitted a waiver to the State & then will submit to DOL to waive the requirement that states only 25% of funding can be spent on In-School Youth. The waiver would allow districts to spend the money 50/50 and would be in place for PY 22 & PY 23. All boards in NYS are applying for, and we are just waiting for it to be accepted. We also have an Employment Specialist position available that will be shifting to the Youth Team. This position will focus on SYEP for ½ of the year, and the remainder of their time would be spent on outreach and recruitment for the Youth and Dislocated Worker populations. Because of the nature of this position, it will be opened up to all current Employment Specialists and then we would backfill that vacant position. During this time Brian Chetney asked Ellen Lazarek for assistance in doing outreach for the Leadership Oswego County Youth (LOCY) program.

5. Roundtable Discussion

Brian Heffron- PTECH utilizes a mentorship program that involves 120 students and 35-40 mentors from the manufacturing world (some companies involved include Novelis, Huhtamaki, EJ, N.E.T & die, Davis Standard, Universal Metal, & Constellation). They are always looking for more mentors. Last year's exit interview showed 22 participants head straight into employment and there was a consensus that the mentoring component was a major factor to their success. PTECH program starts in 9th grade and follows them along throughout their High School journey. On October 7th there will be an expo held at CiTi BOCES in honor of Manufacturing Day- students 8th grade and up from all districts will be invited to attend. Brian also talked about Volunteer Service Projects for his students so that they can work on professional skills, gain a sense of community,

etc. If you have any projects (does not have to be specifically related to manufacturing) send them along to Brian. They are also trying to find a way to recruit more of the North Country, and the female population.

Brian Chetney- Youth Summit was held this past spring. Over 35 Businesses attended, and 700 students attended. This was the 1st field trip that most schools have taken since the pandemic, overall, a great turnout.

Ellen Lazarek- Oswego Pride Festival will be held 9/24/22 at Civic Plaza from 11:00-4:00. Potential for recruitment there. Go to oswegopridefestival.com to register to be a vendor. Free for non-profit, if selling items, it's \$30. *May be a good opportunity for some of the PTECH students to volunteer or any youth in general. If you have someone interested, please send contact information to Ellen. There will be a event held on 8/30/22 for Recognizing Overdose Awareness Day that will consist of a group of vendors with information and a free Narcan Training @ 5pm. (RSPVs are preferred). The Peer Specialist positions have been filled, they are still recruiting for 2 specialists to work in Workforce Programming, a New Clubhouse Specialist, and a Clubhouse Site Supervisor (close to filling this position)

Alissa Viscome- Oswego Health has hired Nicole Damboise to work with School and Non-School based youth programs. Will be representing Oswego Health in the community and attending a lot of youth focused events going forward

Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski- SYEP update- placed 140 kids but have lost quite a few for various reason- we are left with a # of kids in the 90's. Looking to do quite a few extensions as we have plenty of money left. If sites agree and participants are interested, we can extend. Official end date of the program is 8/19/22. Brian C. expressed interest in extending the OC3 crew at Independence trail, but we likely won't be able to do that as we won't have Crew Leaders past the end date. Brian also mentioned that if we ever had a need to use Camp Hollis for any recruitments or team building that we are more than welcome to. Zach Grulich can train people to become Ropes Course facilitators or can use a different trainer when they are available if needed.

Brian Chetney called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alissa Viscome motioned to adjourn, Ellen Lazarek 2nd the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on November 9th, 2022 @ 9:00 a.m. at the One Stop Center located at 200 N. 2nd Street, Fulton, NY 13069.