

**Workforce Development Board of Oswego County
Youth Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 9, 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: Brian Chetney, Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski, Kelly Burkett, Carla DeShaw, Brian Heffron, Ellen Lazarek, Rachel Pierce, Kim Sizemore, Kelley Thurlow, Chena Tucker, Alexis Cummins

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

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 10, 2023

Brian Chetney asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Chena Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes. Ellen Lazarek 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 19 services (CiTi-14, Helio Health-1, National Tractor Trailer School-3, Sage Truck Driving School-1). For Paid Work Experience we were able to place 47 young adults on paid work sites such as Fulton City School District, Ken’s Body Shop, Oswego County Opportunities, Par-K, Victory Transformation, Humane Society, etc. We also had 2 participants in Other Training consisting of Alternative Secondary Education. We had 68 Training Services by Occupation Cluster- 3 in Construction, 7 in Healthcare, 2 in Other (Alternative Secondary Education), 47 Training Services to Businesses (Work Experience) & 9 in Transportation (CDL-A, CDL-B, Heavy Equipment). We have recently started to work with new businesses, and this has a lot to do with CiTi BOCES sending youth our way to do internships. This report is based off WIOA & ITE services.

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

Overall, youth funding was over obligated, but deobligations still need to be done. Even so, we have hit our 80% obligation requirement. The State had approved a 50/50 split of funding for In-school and Out-of-school youths, which was approved for the program years PY21 & PY2, however the split has reverted to the 75/25 split for PY23.

4. SYEP Update-Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski

We were able to place 80 youth in at least 1 day of work with the majority of them still working. We expect to be able to fund extensions for several participants providing both the youth and the worksite can do it- we can use the money up until 9/30 but all paychecks must be issued before that date so work would end around the middle of September. This year we were unable to place around 15-20

youth that were 14/15 years old as we did not have enough worksites that would accommodate youth of those ages as labor laws limit what they can do, and school districts have been wary about accepting those ages. Next year the hope is to bring back at least 1 OC3 work site if possible. Ellen shared that she would reach out to coworkers at OCO to see if there are locations that may be able to take in youth (could potentially start with a year-round work experience). Brian shared that Camp Hollis received a grant that will allow them to winterize the facility which may be another option for a work experience site.

5. Directors Report

Over the past 2 months we have been doing administrative work for DOL requirements. We submitted the DOL Equal Opportunity Compliance, the Career Center Recertification, and the Local Plan. Currently we are working on edits to the Regional Plan with Onondaga and Cortland/Cayuga Counties to be submitted at the end of August. A new template for the MOU should be available shortly. Rachel shared that we were not awarded the Hecksher Foundation Grant that we had applied for to serve youth who were going to be participating in the EMT academy training with Menter. Even though we did not receive the grant, we still plan to assist Menter with the EMT academy. We are also currently working on a grant project with Centerstate CEO developing a regional CDL Training. Right now, we are in the processes of getting businesses involved and are working closely with Keith Titus (Page Trucking). Page Trucking is working with Mobility Management to become NYS Trainer Certified. The idea is that Keith Titus would do the classroom training, and then partner businesses would do the drive time training. This grant runs through the end of the year funding our time to work on it with the opportunity to extend it. Right now, Rachel is serving on the Oswego County Micron Strategy Steering Committee. This committee breaks down into small subcommittees to bring goals about to bring Oswego County to the front of this expansion. She is also serving on the Future Ready Workforce Innovation Consortium on the construction subcommittee & Kim Sizemore is serving on the Outreach subcommittee. They are focusing on outreach to see how Micron can help with advanced manufacturing and to see how we can get community members interested. The construction group is also focused on replication the Syracuse Build Model which would allow Oswego County to replicate the Pathways to Apprenticeship program. Micron is looking to break ground in 2024 and then hire technicians starting in 2026. Internally we are working on splitting from DSS and becoming the Department of Workforce Development. A lot of planning and strategizing must be done as some of our funding comes from DSS, therefore we will be sending over 2 Employment Specialist positions to Mexico to handle the Public Assistance caseloads and the offices will work on a referral system. We may still contract with DSS to provide BSR and ITE resources for those who fall under 200% eligibility, but we are still trying to figure out all of those logistics. We will still receive the SYEP money, and the Transportation Initiative Program money will be contracted to us. Internally we will be restructuring our teams from Adult and Youth to Business Services and Customer Services with one team doing OJT and PWE and the other team doing scholarships, career exploration and other youth services. With this we are looking to hire another Employment Specialist or 2. The County has been supportive of the shift and are willing to invest money into our department which would loosen some of the restrictions that we face. We still need to put forth proposals, but we are looking to be split starting 1/1/2024. This will allow our

department to focus on more of the “big picture” projects. Rachel stressed that this is a step in the right direction for Workforce Development and no jobs in our department will be lost and no services will be taken away.

6. Roundtable Discussion

Ellen Lazarek- She has 5 open positions available, some due to turnover and some due to new grant funding being received. Looking for 3 Fulltime Health Education advocates to work on HIV/STD prevention, and for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (some of the open positions are strict on education requirements but some have some leeway). She will be looking for a consultant to meet with youth to see what is needed in the community. Also looking for interest in joining a meeting for Youth Enterprise. Pride Festival will be hosted in Oswego at Civic Plaza on 9/9 @ 11:00, space is available for non-profit and paid vendors- to sign up visit www.oswegopridefestival.com and November is National Runaway and Homeless Youth Month. Ellen will be hosting a virtual meeting on 8/17 to plan an event and other activities.

Brian Chetney- Funding has changed from the Calendar Year to the Federal Year. RFP process is out right now, and if you are interested, please contact the office. There are still some Mini grants available. Some new funding was passed in April with the State Budget but there are no details on amounts of money available yet. Some of the money is coming from a sports gambling app which would allow them to fund aspects of “unordinary sports” and part 2 would go to regular sports. This will allow Brian the opportunity to shift money around. All information is available on their webpage. Once the Camp Hollis project is complete, it will be available year-round.

Carla DeShaw- OnPoint is still pushing to get into Oswego County. Right now, they are working on setting up the 2023-2024 school year as they work with a few districts in the county, but they are looking to expand. They meet with High School students to help with career exploration. Students from 5 counties went on a trip to Virginia and meet with Micron representatives. NBT Bank recently got funding for a position that will work specifically with the Microchip industry. They are also focusing on doing orientations for students who will be attending college, they assist with laptops, school/dorm supplies, etc. to students who experience barriers. If you are working with an individual who could benefit from this program, please refer to OnPoint (does not have to be a college student, could be a training program of someone in a career pathway that needs assistance). They also offer summer paid work experience for students who are home from college (must be relevant to their studies). There are no income eligibility requirements. OnPoint does have a volunteer portal on their website if you are interested in volunteering.

Brian Heffron- CiTi BOCES is adding an Agricultural Study program this year and moving the Dental Assistant program to the High School level. P-Tech is adding an additional Electrical Mechanical program which is essentially a “Micron Pathway”. Brian will be the only staff member attending board meetings as when he took over this position there was a chance to shift duties and responsibilities. There will be another person hired by CiTi to focus on more of

the CTE programs and Brian will do a little of everything. Manufacturing Day will be held on 10/6 and Agriculture Day will be held on 10/20 and they will have farm animals present. P-Tech has hired a new principal pending board recommendation, but Brian believes they will be a great addition to the program and will bring growth to the program. 44 students were turned away from P-Tech this year as the funding only allows a cohort of 40. CiTi's family welcome centers are becoming very successful, and they offer a wide variety of services/workshops. The centers are also open and available for other agencies to use as needed. Brian is on the Education committee for the Micron Committee, where they are working on goals and needs assessments for what is currently going on at schools and communities and where the gaps are. They are also working on ideas about how to get students excited about STEM opportunities.

Chena Tucker- on 8/24 the Shineman Foundation will be conducting a strategic visioning with the Full Board to hopefully become more strategic in the areas that they are focusing on. Chena would like to bring the following topics to discussion: Focusing on/advocating for Substance Use Disorders, Food Insecurity, Early Childhood Intervention (0-5), and Transportation.

Kelly Burkett- Kelly has still been carrying a counselor caseload but hoping that a new VRC will be hired shortly and stationed in the Workforce Office and the schools. This will allow Melissa to focus on her areas and allow Kelly to focus on Business Services.

Kim Sizemore- OCWNY is hosting their Fall Job Fair on 9/21/2023 at the Fulton War Memorial from 4:00-6:00- if you are interested in attending, please reach out to Kim.

There were no further updates at this time. Brian Chetney called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ellen Lazarek motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on November 8th, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m. at the One Stop Center located at 200 N. 2nd Street, Fulton, NY 13069.