

**Workforce Development Board of Oswego County  
Business Development Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, January 11, 2023  
Oswego County Workforce New York Career Center**

*“The Business Development Committee shall identify and monitor the business services provided through the system, oversee public relations about business services, convene focus groups and community roundtables for identifying future workforce needs as related to economic development, identify available funding and assist in grant writing for employer training needs, and produce the State of the Workforce Annual Report.”*

**Minutes**

Present: Igor Kasovski, Zach Menter, Dave Goodness, Austin Wheelock, Dan Dorsey Jr, Greg Hilton, Marq Brown, Pamela Caraccioli, Garrette Weiss, Amie Abold, Carol Taormina, Rachel Pierce, Kim Sizemore, Denise Stepien, Casey Diehl, Alexis Cummins

The meeting was called to order at 8:59 a.m. Rachel made an announcement to the group the Greg Hilton will be the new Business Development Chair, Keiko Kimura will be the new Skills & Training Chair, and Zoë Vandermeulen will be the new Partners Roundtable Chair. At this time roundtable introductions were done as there were many new members joining us today. Welcome new members!

**1) Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2022**

Greg asked for a motion to approve the October 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Dave Goodness made a motion to approve, and Garrette Weiss seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was carried.

**2) Business News/Training Update- Kim Sizemore**

PY22 Q2 Spending is doing well. 15 total OJTS- 11 complete, 1 active, and 3 incompletes. If businesses are interested in a candidate and may want to do an OJT with them- call Casey and she can get it set up. Casey will also post positions on the NYS Job Bank. We have invested \$56,273.76 and have about \$22,000 left to spend. The Youth program has about \$102,000 available to expend. (Must be between 16-24 and meet certain qualifications). Kim gave an overview of the Metrix program- it is free to all Oswego County residents who make less than \$28 an hour, and they can take an unlimited amount of courses for 6 months. Businesses are also able to buy licenses for \$99. If you would be interested in the program please let us know. OCWNY attended/held 8 events/job fairs throughout the county. OCWNY completed 7 prescreening sessions for Huhtamaki with 15 participants, 10 prescreening sessions for First Choice Staffing with 35 participants, 3 prescreening sessions for Novelis with 38 participants, and provided space for 2 sessions of interviews for Novelis for their Operator positions. OCWNY posted 66 jobs for 26 employers on the NYS Job Bank and Social Media and completed outreach to 8 new businesses. 65 businesses in total were serviced this quarter. Kim also gave an update on the Business Highlight Project- Pathfinder Bank will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Business Highlighted on Social Media for a week and then will hold a recruitment event the week after. Oswego County Solid Waste and Highway Department are partnering with OCWNY to help some of their employees obtain the required classroom training portion of the CDL-B license. Felix Schoeller is working to install a new Coater Line and OCWNY will assist with training needs, possible OJTs for new hires/incumbent workers, and there will be a potential to fund additional supportive services. OCWNY wrapped up their OJTs with Menter Ambulance and had 7 successful candidates. Due to the success of the program, Menter is looking to organize another EMT class and a Paramedic class in the next Program Year.

### **3) Customer Feedback- Businesses PY '22 Q1- Kim Sizemore**

97 surveys were sent, and 22 were returned. A majority of businesses utilized Oswego County Workforce New York and thought that the services were valuable. One company stated that the Job Fair held in September was not well attended and to try and combat that OCWNY may be looking to host their next job fair in a new location, and may plan an event in the North Country as well. It was suggested to maybe try and incentivize businesses into replying to the surveys to gain more results.

### **4) Directors Report– Rachel Pierce**

Rachel announced the Youth Summit has been set for May at the Oswego County Fairgrounds. OCWNY has received the year 2 allocation for the SCION Grant (~\$85,000)- it allows us to fund a Disability Resource Coordinator (Tori Wilson- will be starting at the end of January) and will allow us to build a network of resources with different agencies. Rachel announced that the Legislature did approve additional funding for the PTech program within the county budget. Rachel shared that she would like to organize a Customer Award Ceremony to share customer success stories and congratulate them. Her idea is that we would hold the ceremony at the end of the Program Year and invite Workforce Staff and Board Members and have a press release to try and get some positivity out into the public about Workforce. Rachel had a goal of fully transitioning the Board to OCWNY within 6 months of taking it over- we hit that in December and so far we are in great shape. She also expressed interest in working with Onondaga County on their Pathways to Apprenticeship program.

### **5) Roundtable Update – All**

**All-** Discussion had about the possibility of hosting a Medical Day event- CiTi is willing to organize and host. Greg asked OCWNY for feedback on events that their staff has attended- overall events have been great and it has been nice to connect with other businesses to determine their needs and get our name out there. The group then went into a discussion regarding Micron and what the county will need to do to attract people and keep people in their workforce. Rachel was recently invited to join a Micron Steering committee being led by SUNY Oswego. The group stressed that housing, schools, jobs for spouses/kids would be a concern for when people start to relocate to the area.

**Pamela Caraccioli-** Shared the Fulton Savings Bank has reached out to area unions and high schools to try and provide funding to assist those that may be chronically unemployed but has not had any interest in it as of yet. She stated that if the bank is able to help in any way that they are willing to do so, as is the Shineman Foundation.

**Carol Taormina-** Stated that with Micron moving into the area businesses should start focusing on the company culture and try to find ways to recruit and retain employees. Company culture is a huge aspect of why some people stay in a job even if they could make more money elsewhere.

**Igor Kasovski-** Oswego Industries has been able to hire a few people recently.

**Dave Goodness-** Dave gave a heads up regarding a Non-Profit writing a new apprenticeship for a Workforce Development Specialist.

**Austin Wheelock-** Shared that Operation Oswego County is recruiting for an Economic Development Coordinator. Lately OOC has also been aggressive regarding site development. Also stated that he has had discussions with companies that have expressed struggles finding employees, and he did not seem them on the Business News/Training Update report so he will pass those names along for OCWNY to reach out to.

**Dan Dorsey Jr-** Asked for more information regarding the CDL B training class as that has been one of their biggest challenges over the years.

**Greg Hilton-** Asked for an Economic Development update to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

There were no other updates at this time. The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** April 5, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. **Location:** One Stop Center Conference Room 2A, 200 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Fulton, NY 13069.