

**Workforce Development Board of Oswego County
Business Development Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 12, 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.”

“Creating pathways to better careers and economic growth.”

Present: Sara Broadwell, Marq Brown, Dave Goodness, Tim McKernan, Emily Cameron, Rachel Pierce, Amanda Quaile, Kim Sizemore, Austin Wheelock, Linda MacDougall, Matthew Serrao, Debra Kingsley, Heather Vashaw (phone), Alexis Cummins

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. Roundtable introductions were done.

1) Felix Schoeller Presentation

- Matthew Serrao from Felix Schoeller presented on the history and the future of Felix Schoeller. He went into detail about what the factory produces and discussed their addition of a coater line and how that was able to open up jobs for current staff to upgrade into and open more positions to backfill.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 5, 2023

Rachel asked for a motion to approve the April 5, 2023 meeting minutes. Dave Goodness made a motion to approve, and Marq Brown seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was carried.

3) Business News/Training Update-Kim Sizemore

PY22 Q4 spending is doing well. 22 total OJTs- 10 complete, 9 active, and 3 incomplete. OJT's have been done with Menter, Felix Schoeller, and Pathfinder Bank. We have invested \$77,635.04. Adult OJT has a balance of \$13,137.36. DW OJT has a balance of \$12,398.61 and Youth PWE has a balance of \$85,801.07. In addition:

- OCWNY attended/held 8 events/job fairs throughout during Q4. A majority of which was job fairs held at our office for various companies.
- OCWNY completed 8 prescreening sessions for First Choice Staffing with 34 participants and 3 prescreening sessions for Menter with 17 participants.
- OCWNY posted 29 jobs for 20 employers on the NYS Job Bank and social media platforms, and completed outreach to 23 new businesses. 23 businesses in total were served during this quarter.
- Business Highlight Project –Pathfinder Bank highlight ran in June with a hiring event after. Unfortunately there was no one in attendance for the event but we will try another event at the Oswego location. If any other businesses are interested, email ocnwy.org for more information.
- Oswego County Solid Waste and Highway Department partnered with OCWNY to help some employees obtain the required classroom training portion of the CDL-B license; currently have 4 Oswego County employees enrolled in the training program. Program will be wrapping up soon.
- OCWNY met with North Shore Ambulance, NOCA and McFee Ambulance Service to discuss partnering together and expanding the EMT Training Classes to include multiple agencies, along with continuously working with Menter.

4) Customer Feedback- Businesses PY '22 Q3- Kim Sizemore

67 surveys were sent out and 7 were returned. A majority of businesses utilized Oswego County Workforce New York and all 7 thought that the services were valuable. Hiring assistance and OJT were the most frequently used services. One respondent stated that the building was small, and noise echoed- this was in relation to our job fair held at the McCrobie Building in Oswego. In response to this, Marq Brown and Sara Broadwell discussed potential business or other sponsorships for future locations in Oswego that are bigger but may cost more than OCWNY can afford. Our next fair will be held at the War Memorial in Fulton, but it may be worth looking into for a future Oswego Fair. Another respondent stated that Oswego Workforce is the best!

5) Director's Report- Rachel Pierce

Rachel shared that the Local Plan was submitted 7/7 and accepted by the State. She has been in contact with partnering counties for the Regional Plan modifications that are due at the end of August. She will be working on the Career Center Recertification with our Administrative Secretary next week. (Board recertification will be next year) She shared that she is working through the new budget pieces that come with starting the new year. There are still many discussions and groups being held regarding Micron. Next week Rachel is attending a Future Ready Workforce Innovation Consortium at SU and on 7/31 the MOST is holding a reception to unveil their new Micron exhibit.

6) Roundtable- All

Austin Wheelock- Explained that Micron has been taking over so much time from existing businesses. Also discussed the I-81 project and that it will be happening in phases and phases 1-4 is set to go. He also provided an update on the Attis facility, explaining that the due diligence period has been extended but the company is still interested, they are just determining the costs of getting it back up and running. Also discussed smaller manufacturers that are looking to grow- Canfield Machine, EJ Prescott, Daldrop. Austin also discussed that there is \$10 million available to apply for regional council competition talent retention and attraction. Sara mentioned that Oswego County needs a one stop shop and needs an easy showcase of everything we have to offer.

Sara Broadwell- Shared that Micron is definitely coming into the area and urged people to reiterate it to others.

Marq Brown- asked if we could get statistics regarding Oswego County residents who travel Rt 481/81 to go to work in Syracuse. Wondering if their normal 30–40-minute drive will increase with the highway construction. Rachel will inquire with DOL for statistics along with per city location as well.

Dave Goodness- Feels that we need to get companies to work together to train people for future needs. We should be looking at high school juniors and seniors and start talking with the schools about introducing students to industries and the opportunities that are available for training or assistance with college education within those companies. Rachel mentioned that we need to get companies to buy into training students and create career pathways for them, and potentially pay them while in training with a position waiting for them at completion of training. Marq believes that there needs to be a clear path that can be seen by the younger generation to feel that the pathway is the right way to go for the future. Dave also mentioned that paid internships and apprenticeships are the best way to engage young people.

Emily Cameron- SUNY Reimagine funds are still available that allows the AMI micro-credential completion to be paid for. Wants to get medical coding info on what is out in the community and key players/employer needs. The course will be offered in Spring after training needs are determined by employers. They are also looking to tap into local health care providers for specific needs.

There were no other updates at this time. Rachel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Austin Wheelock made a motion. Dave Goodness seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Next Meeting: October 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Location: One Stop Center Conference Room 2A, 200 N. 2nd Street, Fulton, NY 13069.