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**Workforce Development Board of Oswego County  
Youth Council Meeting  
Wednesday, May 8, 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:** Brian Chetney, Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski, Kelly Burkett, Nicole Damboise, Chelsea Ginnett, Brian Heffron, Ellen Lazarek, Rachel Pierce, Bridget Proulx, Kim Sizemore, Sarah Yaw, Alexis Cummins, Lori Harrington, Dan Petty.

**Brian Chetney called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.**

**1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 14, 2024.**

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

**2. Youth Training by Provider & 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 44 young adults on paid work sites such as Fulton Parks & Recreation, Fulton Youth Basketball, Oswego County Ambulance and Hearse, Oswego County Opportunities, etc. We have had 59 Training Services by Occupation Cluster- 6 in Construction, 1 in Electrical, 3 in Healthcare, 44 Training Services to Businesses (Work Experience/OJT) & 5 in Transportation (CDL-A, CDL-B, Heavy Equipment). We have had 5 Youth in CDL training. We are still placing kids and doing business as usual.

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

For Youth funding our total customer training is 128% obligated with Work Experience being 178% obligated, and ITA's being 131% obligated (these are the bulk of services we have been providing). Total Youth Funding is 109% obligated. We are over-obligated for Youth funding.

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Rachel is looking into this. We are currently using County investment to fund Youth. As of May 1, we will start using SYEP funding, which helps for Youth funding. WIOA Youth for PY24 starts in April, so we will be fine. Also, the transition of new accountants has affected this. To be clear, we did not serve too many Youth; we are now actually expanding services due to County funding.

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

We are taking applications and still accepting worksite proposals (waiting on Fulton schools). We have received over 40 applications so far with 30 of those eligible. Payroll orientation letters have been sent. Orientations begin next week, and we will talk with kids about what types of worksites they are interested in. Applications are on our website or at the front desk. For eligibility- must be Oswego County residents and have low income (Effective May 1, for a family of 5, can't make over 73,000. Also note, Liz said SYEP income is excluded from household income when qualifying for benefits, since it's temporary). If we are in a good spot for summer spending, and if there are enough staff, we could possibly increase income limits and will reconsider the eligibility of some. Ideally, two more counselors are needed. Rachel added that the need is not only for the students but that we also want to provide students for businesses. Liz told Brian Heffron he could offer a wait list. Ellen asked about including the OCO bookstore (in addition to the already approved Pulaski site). It was noted that a proposal is needed for each job/site. Liz is also willing to do a separate orientation for an OCO group if needed.

#### **5. Youth Systems Build Academy Update- Rachel Pierce**

The goal of Youth Systems Youth Academy w/USDOL is to help build pathways and systems for youth ages 16-24, primarily by WIOA. See attachment. Rachel and Tina went to DC and found out that we have hurdles similar to other rural areas. Dan Petty is joining the team. The team is working with SUNY to gather data. Chena is helping by working with the PR dept for marketing and the MBA program. We are specifically looking at where the youth are located in the county and where they are not being served. There may be opportunity for work experience with us, since youth will be contributing their voice to reach other kids. We want to hear what they want/need. The goal is to align skills training/pathways with the workforce. Collecting data is a big piece of the puzzle. The team works together weekly and has a coach. Our Transportation program could use enhancement, so we will be looking into the success of another rural community in another state. The Youth Advisory Council will need a place to meet, possibly CiTi. This will target students as well. Sarah Y. sees a problem with kids' availability in the summer and is concerned about resources for K-12. Brian H. says the majority of kids accessing current opportunities are at a higher income level. The question is how to make it affordable and accessible. Ellen says the opportunities need to be cultural and comfortable, and that we all struggle with youth engagement. The Health Ed project has a youth piece as well, and Fulton Y is working to create a Youth Board. Amy and the Chair at the Y would be a good connection to reach out to. Ellen offered to train as needed. Brian C. said we rely on camps as well to reach kids. There are many camps, each serving a different population. All agencies need to work together. For example, if Brian can only hire so many, he could connect youth with another camp/agency/business. Any ideas can be given to Rachel prior to May 20, as she is going to the Washington, DC meeting again May 21-23.

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## 6. Director's Report- Rachel Pierce

We are close to the end of the program year. Transferred funds from DW to Adult to hit the 80% obligation. There will be rewards for Workforce! We have already transferred \$120,000 to Adult and will transfer more as needed. Could get \$100,000 - \$200,000 additional if meet the 80%. For May 21 CDL class- Over 50 recruited, 20 A's and 20 B's. We are working with Laser transit (supplying a truck or two and hiring people), the City of Fulton DPW, and Citi (also has one truck). CiTi is looking for ways to expand to purchase another truck and will currently be leasing if necessary. The training will help those employed keep their jobs. Some other businesses are using their own trucks for more driving time. Full tuition will be covered. Brian H. talked about more bridge-type jobs to increase skills and learn good work habits. Rachel said there needs to be expansion of construction skills/certifications, since there is much demand for construction. Brian H. said there is a shift in what graduates are going toward. Sarah Y. questioned if a College course in High school would be accepted by DOL as well? For CTE pathway students there's more value to the early college access in that it helps prep for apprenticeship. Cayuga has a pathway to Criminal Justice. To connect people, it's good to upscale early so at the end of the education they are ready.

## 7. Roundtable Update – All

**Brian Chetney-** Youth Career Summit will be held on June 5 at the Oswego County Fairgrounds. Contact his office with any questions. This year there will be drone soccer. There are 500 students expected. This is a good opportunity to get info out to 8th graders. Brian added he has County fields with lights available for use for youth groups.

**Ellen Lazarek-** Oswego County Street Homeless (OCO) will work with clients while providing stable housing for a year. Now is a critical time for intervention. Looking for case managers, peers interested in mental health, and full-time clinicians (Positions listed on website.). There's a challenge in recruiting staff. Street work is intense. Under age 21 clients are targeted. Currently there are 83 adults in the program. These adults are helping by bringing workers into the camps where the kids are to get them into shelters.

**Kelly Burket-** CNY Regional Inter-Agency 101, June 5, 9-3 will be held at Drumlins Country Club, connecting middle and high schoolers. Access-VR will be there and more. This is a free event but need to register. National Disability Employment Awareness Month is coming up, and an honorary business will be elected soon. Nomination forms are available for businesses who served disabled youth. Someone mentioned the success with Sweet Aroma, in which 14 came to OCWNY's pop-up event.

**Kim Sizemore-** Spring Job Fair will be May 9, and 60 businesses will attend. There is a huge waiting list, and we are considering a summer job fair. Our Resume Day wasn't well attended. We are busy mostly with CDL's and SYEP. Integrated Community Planning with Jefferson CC offers the Child Care Bootcamp for people wanting to open a day care business. We provide supportive services such as housing upgrades and electronics. The first class starts May 14. We will recruit through August.

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**Brian Heffron-** CTE Showcase Program Event will be May 9, 5-7. This is an open house for students, parents, alumni, and the community. An upcoming competition- Skills USA- is National. Four will be going to Atlanta. PTECH- 35 out on internships. CTE- over 300? on internships. There will be a State Police Friday for the Armed Forces and Public Safety Day. A helicopter will be flying over and landing! In attendance will be EMT's, fireman, and police.

**Chelsea Ginnett-** SUNY is offering Summer Programs- Exploring Nature, Sheldon Institute, and STEAM. Each session is 2 weeks. Twenty-five scholarships are available. Applications may be found at [Oswego.edu/summercamps](http://Oswego.edu/summercamps). Lunches served. Free lunch available with scholarships. Rachel mentioned that schools could benefit students by having a parent night of community summer programs.

**Sarah Yaw-** Cayuga Community College has accepted 3 RN nursing students from ECHS program.

There were no further updates at this time. Brian Chetney called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Heffron motioned to adjourn; Rachel Pierce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. at OCWNY located at 200 N. 2nd Street, Fulton, NY 13069.**

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