



200 North Second Street
Fulton, New York 13069
(315) 591-9000
(315) 591-9047 fax or (315) 591-9009 fax
ocwny@oswegocounty.com

**Workforce Development Board of Oswego County
Youth Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 7, 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, Tiffany Halstead, Tina Eusepi, Ellen Lazarek, Kathleen Joyce, Rachel Pierce, Kim Sizemore, Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski, Alexis Cummins

Brian Chetney called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and roundtable introductions were done.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 8, 2024.

Brian Chetney asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Rachel Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes. Kim Sizemore 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 19 services in PY23. (CiTi-17, Jefferson Community College-1, OCM BOCES-1). For Paid Work Experience/On-the-Job Training we were able to place 49 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 68 Training Services by Occupation Cluster- 6 in Construction, 1 in Electrical, 4 in Healthcare, 49 Training Services to Businesses (Work Experience/OJT) & 8 in Transportation (CDL-A, CDL-B, Heavy Equipment). Rachel asked the group if anyone was opposed to changing the report to remove the Training Service by Occupational Cluster chart going forward, and no one was opposed.

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

Total Youth Funding is 108% obligated. We do still have some deobligations to be done, but we have fully spent our money for PY23. We have been able to utilize funding from the County to filter through youth for OJT/PWE who do not meet WIOA requirements. Elizabeth shared a success story with the group- *“We have a youth who we have been working with for many months who had no documents and no access to documents, and we have been able to help*

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her secure all necessary documents to obtain her permit which she passed this week, and now we are able to place her on a worksite for a PWE”.

4. SYEP Update- Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski

We had a total of 169 applicants with just under 50 that were either over income, didn't have a placement available, they had a late application, or were ineligible for other reasons. We started 121 youth who have worked at least one day, and most of the youth are still working. We had a group of kids who were placed at Camp Hollis that unfortunately did not work out and we had to close the site, but we have offered those youth an opportunity to come into the career center for a week-long paid work readiness workshop where we are focusing on soft skills, critical thinking, professionalism, resumes, interviewing, metrix courses, and providing WorkKeys Essential Skills Assessments. Ellen & Tina will discuss the possibility of doing a workshop for the youth about their Health Education program as they have a work ready group/training to promote skills.

5. Director's Report- Rachel Pierce

The Youth Systems Build Academy is finalizing their report and will be meeting soon to discuss next steps. OCWNY received \$450,000 from ESD to do the Oswego Build Pathways to Apprenticeship program. We are looking to do 2 cohorts of 15-20 people each and will be hiring another Senior Employment Specialist to oversee the program. MACNY and CCC are partnering on the Real Life Rosies program and are looking to recruit 12-15 women for a training program starting in September for 2 nights a week. The program is free to all and is an introduction into advanced manufacturing and participants will attend classes for 11 weeks (2 nights a week) and there will be stipends built into the program. Early College High School will be expanding to Advanced Manufacturing in the 2025 school year. OCWNY submitted a grant to state DOL for \$250,000 to continue our CDL initiative. We are also partnering with Oswego Health and Opus Vi for free Medical Assistant training for Oswego Health employees and individuals in the county looking to go on that career path. The class starts in mid-September and is free to all. We have started providing WorkKeys testing to the public and have had 2 individuals take the assessments so far.

6. Roundtable Update – All

Group- The group discussed the issues that they have been seeing in the younger generation. They discussed how youth need to know how not to speak when in front of other people and how to be respectful and mature, especially when on a worksite. They discussed how different groups are not preparing kids for the future and are expecting other groups to pick up the slack and teach the kids right from wrong. We discussed how kids are not being held accountable anymore, and what we could do to try and address that issue. Kim and Elizabeth shared that OCWNY will be hosting a planning/restructuring meeting for our SYEP program to try and combat some of these issues. Brian also shared that this group is one of the select few groups that have the capability to try and help, and that maybe we could come up with a universal workshop for the younger generation.

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Ellen Lazarek- OCO is hiring for 2 licensed clinicians (1 to work with Oswego City School District, and 1 for street outreach). They are also looking for a case manager for long term case management for street outreach, 1 street outreach advocate focusing on youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and 1 full time Health Educator to work specifically with the under 21 population. The Young Adult clubhouse has moved into the old Pine house location, and they are able to serve more youth. Upcoming events for OCO- 8/13 from 9:00-5:00 @ Breitbeck: "Wellness Fair" they will be grilling and playing games and will hopefully unveil the winner of the t-shirt design contest. 8/20 the clubhouse will be hosting a panel discussing from 4:00-7:00 @ the McCrobie building, and on 9/24 from 4:00-9:00 at Fallbrook they will be hosting Sunset Yoga & a songwriting workshop & performance.

Brian Chetney/Tiffany Halstead- The Youth Bureau is looking at revamping their Leadership Oswego County Youth (LOCY) program.

Rachel Pierce- There is a potential to collaborate with each other for one proposal for the county for the money that will be available from ESD & Micron.

There were no further updates at this time. Brian Chetney called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kim Sizemore motioned to adjourn; Rachel Pierce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. at OCWNY located at 200 N. 2nd Street, Fulton, NY 13069.

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