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**Workforce Development Board of Oswego County
Skills and Training Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, 2024 9:00 a.m.
Oswego County Workforce New York Career Center**

'The Skills and Training Committee shall review and approve training programs, oversee training providers inventory, evaluate training providers and programs, identify strategies for addressing skill gaps, issue consumer report cards for programs, monitor training program performance data, and oversee the implementation of the Strategic Plan.'

"Creating pathways to better careers and economic growth."

Minutes

Present: Mark Southwick, Tina Eusepi, Eric Saunders, Tim McKernan, Brian Heffron, Mike Metzgar, Keiko Kimura, Alissa Viscome, Rachel Pierce, Kim Sizemore, Kelley Thurlow, Amanda Quaile, Beverly Fry, Alexis Cummins

Keiko Kimura called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and roundtable introductions were done.

1. Approval of July 24, 2024 Minutes

Keiko Kimura asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Tim McKernan made a motion to approve. Brian Heffron seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried.

2. Py24 Q1 WIOA Training Plan – Kim Sizemore

For Adult Funding we have obligated 84%. For Dislocated Worker we have obligated 51% (mostly staff wage & fringe). We received Incentive Funding from the State (\$200,000) for meeting performance measures which has been 100% obligated already. For Youth funding we have obligated 90%. For our County Funding we have obligated 76%. (we have until 12/31/24 to spend the entire amount). We have initiated a transfer of \$70,000 from DW to Adult. The other intensive services on the report in the Adult, DW, and Youth Sections is for the Metrix contract is at 0% because we do not get billed until December. That contract was set to expire at the end of the year and went back out to bid. We received a few proposals but ultimately chose to stick with NY Wired for Metrix, and it was approved by the legislature last week. The contract will be in place for another 5 years at \$17,000 with unlimited licenses.

3. Training by Provider – Amanda Quaile

In Q1 we have assisted a total of 48 participants with ITAs. 6 at 160 Driving Academy for CDL-A & CDL-B, 2 at Bryant & Stratton for Nursing, 1 at Cayuga Community College for Nursing, 31 at CiTi BOCES for CDL-A, CDL-B, LPN, & Phlebotomy, 3 at Faxton St. Lukes for Paramedic & 3 at SUNY Upstate Medical at OCC for Paramedics, 1 at St. Joseph's School of Nursing, and 1 at Sage Truck Driving School for CDL-A. We provided 15 OJT contracts in Q1 with Eastern Shore Insurance Agency, Felix Schoeller, Oswego County Ambulance & Hearse, and Pathfinder Bank, and have provided 10 Metrix licenses to customers.

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4. **Fulton Customer Satisfaction (Job seekers) – Amanda Quaile**

A total of 20 cards were received during the first quarter. Most responses were noted in the excellent/good categories. The main purpose of visits was listed as: Information (45%), Job Leads (55%), Resume (20%), Computers (5%), Other (20%), and Training Information (15%). 75% of respondents noted that this was their first visit. 95% of respondents would recommend OCWNY to their family/friends. Overall, the comments were positive towards the staff members of OCWNY and the assistance they provided them with.

5. **ETPL Updates – Kim Sizemore**

- **SUNY Oswego-** SUNY Oswego is requesting edits for several degrees (Psychology, Wellness Management, Human Development, etc.) Kim asked for approval across the board for these updates, and Rachel shared that while we don't generally fund scholarships for SUNY Oswego, we could if there was an Oswego County resident who requested assistance, and it would be beneficial to have the courses on the ETPL if that were to happen. *Keiko asked for a motion to approve the course requests for SUNY Oswego, Brian Heffron made a motion to approve, Tina Eusepi seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Requests approved.*
- **SUNY Oswego-** SUNY Oswego is also seeking approval for their School Counselor MAS/CAS. OCWNY typically does not fund Master's Degree programs as people are typically employable with a Bachelor's Degree, however, there has been an increased need in the school districts for counselors therefore Kim recommended we approve the request, and going forward we would approve Master Degree programs on an as-needed basis. *Keiko asked for a motion to approve the request. Eric Saunders made a motion to approve, and Brian Heffron seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. Request Approved.*
- **Empire State University-** looking for approval of all their current courses. They are a new provider as they will have a campus in East Syracuse. Classes are flexible and allow real life experience for credit. Mark shared that this is a good program and has some employees utilizing it. *Keiko asked for a motion to approve the request. Mark Southwick made a motion to approve, and Tim McKernan seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.*

6. **Directors Report- Rachel Pierce**

We have had 5 participants for the Childcare Bootcamp in partnership with JCC and SBDC, 2 have been approved by NYS OCFS so far and 1 of them has started their daycare already (1 just submitted reimbursement paperwork and will be starting their daycare soon). The other 3 are still working on submitting paperwork but all 5 are on track to being successful in this program. We originally were awarded \$150,000 for 3 years. We will look to expand this program for another year, but also can spend the money elsewhere as long as its going towards developing childcare. Rachel is working with ICP, CCC, and DOL on creating a registered apprenticeship program for childcare and is also looking at ways to support existing facilities. We are still waiting to hear from DOL about the Reemployment Training Grant that we submitted in June to continue funding for the CDL scholarships. We are also working with OCO on a Work Readiness Training Grant that is due next week. OCO is the lead applicant with OCWNY as a partner, and we would work together to offer Adult & Youth cohorts that would have training that includes topics such as work readiness, soft skills, financial literacy, Northstar Digital Literacy, ACT WorkKeys. The grant would be up to \$350,000 for 1 year with the option to renew and we can build in incentives into it as well. NYSDOL has \$4 million available from the NY Power Authority to distribute to local WDB areas for the Office of Just Energy Transition Renewable Energy Training Initiative. We would get up to \$250,000 as we are at 33.3% for the distressed community ratio. We would partner with CiTi BOCES to bring back the HVAC training and have connected with local employers and unions for possible OJT's and

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supportive services. Rachel also shared that Oswego County was designated as a Work Ready Community, and we will have a celebration/ribbon cutting event on October 29th from 6-8 pm at CiTi BOCES. This event is open to the public, but we request that you register ahead of time.

7. Roundtable Update – All

Keiko Kimura- CCC partnered with MACNY to offer the Real Life Rosies program which started in September. She is excited to see these participants graduate from the program in December. CCC is hosting a Manufacturing Expo on Friday for some local High school students and will have industry partners there to do hands-on exercises.

Kim Sizemore- OCWNY is helping the Real Life Rosies participants with case management, and supportive services. We partnered with CCC and the City of Fulton to pay for some of the city workers to attend a Nuts & Bolts basic hand tool class at CCC to try and help these workers improve their skills and move into other areas of employment within the city. OCWNY hosted their Fall Job Fair and had 45 businesses and 68 job seekers, and we recently welcomed Beverly Fry to our staff to be the Oswego Build Program Manager.

Alissa Viscome- CNA class will be starting again, and they are ramping up job fairs for key positions (nurses, CNA's, LPN's, Phlebotomists, MSWS, etc.) and are finding the job market is more competitive for those positions now and they are working to stay competitive with other agencies. Oswego Health will be at the upcoming Mini Job Fair. Alissa also shared that with the Fulton Community Basketball program she provided some soft skill training to the youth that were placed on site for SYEP, and it was great to see the growth of the youth from the beginning to the end of the program.

Mark Southwick- Huhtamaki will be hosting the Real Life Rosies students in the beginning of November and will be hosting interviews with them at the end of November. There have been discussions about upskilling some of their employees utilizing the Metrix system.

Tina Eusepi- Exploring other grants and partnerships opportunities. Street outreach is almost fully staffed, and they are out there working with the homeless population. The bookstore has seen an uptick in individuals coming in for assistance and support.

Eric Saunders- They are finishing up renovations in the Gouverneur and Oswego centers. They moved their HVAC to the Oswego center. This week they will be starting their 3-day bootcamps with 15-20 possible applicants to let them learn more about the union before applying. They will do several of these bootcamps between now and the end of March. They are starting renovations in Syracuse to prepare for Micron and the new technology that is coming about, and they sent 12 instructors to school to become qualified to instruct.

Tim McKernan- EJ is tied to the construction industry so they are keeping busy. The CiTi BOCES Welding class will be onsite next week, and they are still hiring for fork truck operators, machine operators and welders.

Brian Heffron- Received Feedback from CiTi's Manufacturing Day that they should break it up into a 2-day event, but they are hoping that districts will be able to look internally to see if they can provide some aspects of that day. Also urging districts to start in the earlier grades to get students to think and explore about what they can attach the word manufacturing to. Public Safety CTE students who are in their 2nd year will now be earning their EMT certification as part of the program to give an option to fill the gap between graduation and when they can pursue law enforcement careers. Their distance learning program that services multiple counties across the region will be looking at ways to expand to advanced manufacturing within the program. CiTi is ensuring that all CTE programs are aligning with the MC3 curriculum, and PTech will be looking to possibly expand to the STEM field. Brian also shared that if you have projects that you think the CTE students could assist with to reach out to him. There will be a CoCo Café opening soon on Cayuga Street in Fulton that will be run entirely by students.

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Mike Metzgar- TDO has an opportunity available to apply for money for 2nd Chance Hiring (for those coming out of prison and reentering the workforce). He also shared that starting in November they will offer a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Class but will offer ½ price tuition and the opportunity to “bring a buddy” to the class to work together.

Rachel Pierce on behalf of Kristi Eck- SUNY Oswego's Instructor Bootcamp, funded by a \$340,963 grant from Empire State Development Office of Strategic Workforce Development, concluded its 4th (of 7) cohorts on October 7, 2024 with a closing ceremony held at the SUNY Oswego Syracuse Campus. As of 10/7/2024, 13 of the original 15 participants who enrolled in Cohort 4 completed the 40-hour Instructor Bootcamp taught by SUNY Oswego School of Education faculty and 8 chose to complete the optional Building Trades MC3 Train-the-Trainer course taught by Dr. Tom Kriger. The graduates of the Instructor Bootcamp are now better prepared to serve as instructors for the next generation of workers sought by semiconductor production, supply chain companies, and other related industry partners. Cohort 4 participants were referred to the Instructor Bootcamp from SUNY Buffalo EOC, Onondaga Community College, IBEW 43/CNY Electrical Training Alliance, NYS Building and Construction Trades Council (for Local 17/Hudson Builds and IBEW 236), Tompkins Build, and Syracuse Build (Local 81). SUNY Oswego's Instructor Bootcamp grant includes funding for 3 more cohorts: to be offered starting in January, May, and August 2025. For more information, please visit: www.oswego.edu/instructor-bootcamp

Amanda Quaile- Working with individuals who will be starting training at EJ on 10/22.

There were no further updates at this time. Rachel Pierce asked for a motion to adjourn. Brian Heffron made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tim McKernan seconded the motion. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Next meeting: January 22, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: OCWNY, Conference Room 2A, 200 N. 2nd Street, Fulton, NY 13069

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