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**Workforce Development Board of Oswego County  
Youth Council Meeting  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
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:** Kelly Burkett, Brian Chetney, Nicole Damboise, Tina Eusepi, Chelsea Ginett, Tiffany Halstead, Brian Heffron, Ellen Lazarek, Bridget Proulx, Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski, Rachel Pierce, Kim Sizemore, Kelley Thurlow, Alexis Cummins

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

**1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 6, 2024.**

Brian Chetney asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tiffany Halstead made a motion to approve the minutes. Ellen Lazarek seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried.

**2. Youth Training by Provider- Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski**

For Occupational Skills Training we have done 11 services so far. (160 Driving Academy- 2, CiTi-7, SUNY Cortland-1, OCM BOCES-1). For Paid Work Experience/On-the-Job Training we have placed 10 young adults on paid work sites such as Fulton Parks & Recreation, CNY Arts, Fulton YMCA, Lighthouse Lanes, Oswego County Opportunities, Pathfinder Bank, and Tatlim Bakery. We also have 1 young adult participating in Alternative Secondary Education, and one participating in Short-Term Pre-Vocational Skills (Metrix). We recently were able to place a youth at Little Lukes for the 1<sup>st</sup> time for a Paid Work Experience and have been starting more youth on different placements so the number will grow for PY24 Q3 report.

**3. PY 24 Q2 Training Plan Update- Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski**

Total Youth Funding is 85% obligated. (Paid Work Experience-72%, On-The-Job Training- 22%, Supportive Services- 88%, Individual Training Accounts- 84%, Mentoring- 41%). We anticipate that Paid Work Experience and Individual Training Accounts will go up in the spring, and we hope to send over a few more referrals for mentoring. Overall we are doing good halfway through the year. We are also able to utilize the County funding which has provided us with a lot of flexibility on who we are able to serve over the past year.

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#### 4. Resource Mapping/Youth Services RFP

Rachel shared that 2025 will be a busier year for the board as we have to redo our Local Plan that outlines programs we offer, our regional plan, and contracts for our One Stop Operator (Zoë), and Youth Services. The RFP for the One Stop Operator will be going out shortly but there are more steps that need to be taken before completing the Youth Services Contract. In the agenda there was a chart that contained the 14 program elements and providers for contracted services and for services that we have an MOU with. (MOU's are sent out yearly). We have to be able to refer our youth to any one of the programs. Rachel asked the group if there were any other organizations that may provide some of these services listed and received the following feedback: Youth Bureau (drop the City from their title), would fit under Paid/Unpaid Work experience through AmeriCorps, OCO could provide some financial literacy, CCC could provide Education offered concurrently with workforce preparation and postsecondary preparation and transition activities, OnPoint could potentially provide postsecondary preparation and transition activities, ACCES-VR could provide some services as well but we may not need to list them as they are a required partner. Once complete we need to obtain board approval and legislative approval to have all contracts and MOU's in place by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Brian Chetney made a motion to approve the chart updates upon recommendations provided at today's meeting. Tina Eusepi seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was carried.*

#### 5. Directors Report

Starting next month we will have our RETI money available for HVAC training. We will be able to fund scholarships to CiTi BOCES and OCM BOCES and also provide OJT's for some local businesses. Rachel shared that during the Governors State of the State address, that starting in the 2026 Fiscal Year there will be \$37 million set aside for a year-round youth employment program that will model the summer youth employment program. This would be a great opportunity for us to be able to supplement our WIOA program as we received preliminary #'s for PY25 WIOA Funding and overall our funding will go down about \$80,000. Rachel also expressed her gratitude to those who helped get the CHIPS application in.

#### 6. Roundtable Update – All

**Brian Chetney-** The Youth Summit will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 8 of the 9 districts have committed to attending. If you would like to present or attend please let Brian know. The Youth Bureau is hiring for many positions for the summer and all are listed on their website. Brian encourages anyone looking for funding next year to watch for RFP's. He also shared that they have a proposed increase to their budget that they are hoping sticks.

**Brian Heffron-** There is an advisory committee that meets bi-monthly with people from all 9 districts and representatives from community agencies to start putting together the movement for county wide Community Schools. Community Schools is a partnership between schools and community agencies to connect students and families to all different resources and allows strong partnerships to form. Each district may differ in services provided based on what is specifically needed in that community. If you don't have representation on the committee

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already and would like to please let Brian know. He also shared that the EMT program has 30 students enrolled that are on track to complete at the end of the year and become certified EMTs.

**Kim Sizemore-** OCWNY is working on the Oswego Build project for a pre apprenticeship program that will be targeting women, minorities, and low income individuals. We are hoping to run our 1<sup>st</sup> cohort in June or July with 15-20 individuals enrolled. Marketing materials will be rolled out soon.

**Nicole Damboise-** Oswego Health is working with OCWNY to provide MA training for 10 current employees. OCWNY will cover ½ of the funding for the training and Oswego Health will cover the remainder. This will allow these employees to get higher paying positions within Oswego Health. Their tuition programs are still very robust and they have authorized over \$115,000 this calendar year and are on track to hit over \$1 million since the program started in 2021. Oswego Health hosted over 150 students last year between New Visions and ECHS programs and are looking forward to hosting students again this year.

**Chelsea Ginett-** Last year SUNY Oswego ran 3 summer programs and had 458 students and provided 18 scholarships. They are looking to increase those numbers this year and are also looking to develop programs throughout the year for school breaks and random days off. Registration for this years summer program opens in March. Chelsea shared that they are willing to partner with school districts. Red Creek sent 20 kids last year and transported them to and from the camp. There will be a Celebrate Snow event at Rice Creek on 2/15/25 from 11-2 and Chelsea will have information about their programs available. While discussing summer programs Brian Heffron shared that he would like to see a “Summer Resource Fair” happen where we would showcase all camps and resources available for summer break. Liz agreed and shared that if we were to do it we would need to start planning now for a target date of having the fair in April.

**Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski-** OCWNY is starting the recruitment process for our Summer Youth Employment Program and trying to make it run smoother for the office. We will not be having crew sites this year but would be willing to send youth to those locations if there was onsite supervision provided. We are also working on a project with CiTi BOCES to assist Seniors in their programs that are 200% low-income eligible with obtaining their permits or non-driver ID's. Tina shared that she thought this would be a great resource and reminded everyone how her department no longer has funding to assist with fines and points on licenses. Rachel shared that Westcott Community Center in Onondaga County may be able to help.

**Tiffany Halstead-** Tiffany took a group of kids to Albany for a Youth Leadership Forum. She also took a group of kids to tour the EJ facility and had a leadership presentation from their staff. They will be recruiting for next years LOCY program in April/May.

**Tina Eusepi-** The Pulaski Literacy Zone has youth coming in on Tuesdays/Thursday for Dungeons and Dragons and Tina shared that it is a good time to come and present some local resources to them.

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**Bridget Proulx-** CCC has gotten their distance learning classes up and running with all local high schools and enrollment has been great. They are currently registering for the Advantage Program for students to take college courses at their own school by a CCC approved instructor. They also go out to some local schools and talk with students in college courses about college credits, transcripts, and goal setting.

**Ellen Lazarek-** Ellen shared that Tina's program can provide WorkKeys assessments at their Selkirk locations. They are trying to increase offerings and connections available for all populations. Their street outreach team is recruiting for a Clinician, and OCO Centers for Reproductive Health have positions available for Medical Secretaries and Medical Assistants. Their LGBTQ center is now housed at the Pinewoods locations, and the Health Ed program will be doing informational sessions over Spring Break in Pulaski.

**Kelly Burkett-** ACCES-VR has some vendors that are able to come into the county to do services with high school students. They also have a counselor stationed at every high school in the county. Kelly is also working with Adele Cronk (OCWNY Disability Resource Coordinator) to start up the Oswego County Consortium to share information and figure out barriers for employment for people with disabilities.

There were no further updates at this time. Brian Chetney called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rachel Pierce motioned to adjourn; Tiffany Halstead seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m. at OCWNY located at 200 N. 2nd Street, Fulton, NY 13069.**

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