



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, November 6, 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, Nicole Damboise, Brian Heffron, Bridget Proulx, Angela Ferlito, Kathleen Joyce, Tiffany Rush, Kim Sizemore, Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski, Alexis Cummins

**Brian Chetney called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and roundtable introductions were done.**

**1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 7, 2024.**

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

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

Upon review of our reports, OCWNY dropped the section for Occupational cluster. For Occupational Skills Training we have done 10 services in Q1. (160 Driving Academy- 1, CiTi-7, SUNY Cortland-1, OCM BOCES-1). For Paid Work Experience/On-the-Job Training we were able to place 8 young adults in Q1 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). Brian shared that they would still like some placements at Camp Hollis, but right now we are not seeing youth that are local to that area.

**3. PY 24 Q1 Training Plan Update- Elizabeth Barone-Kapuscinski**

Total Youth Funding is 90% obligated. (Paid Work Experience-114%, On-The-Job Training- 25%, Supportive Services- 59%, Individual Training Accounts- 133%, Mentoring- 17%). This will go down once some deobligations are processed. In the meantime, we are able to utilize funding from the County to reserve some of our WIOA money.

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#### 4. Roundtable Update – All

**Kim Sizemore-** We are still waiting on the next steps for the Youth Systems Build Academy. We have hired a Senior Employment Specialist, Beverly Fry, to be the program manager for the Oswego Build Pathways to Apprenticeship program, and we will start offering supportive services to all 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> year apprentices in all of the unions if they come to us for assistance. We are down to about 8 participants in the Real Life Rosies program that will be set to graduate soon. ECHS will still be expanding into Advanced Manufacturing. OCWNY is still awaiting a response on their CDL initiative grant, and we will be partnering with Oswego Health and Opus Vi on a Medical Assistant training course for current Oswego Health employees.

**Brian Chetney-** The Youth Summit committee will start their planning phase next week. The Youth Bureau is rebranding and separating from the city and will be known as the Oswego County Youth Bureau Parks and Recreation. He stressed on having options available for funding for projects to continue helping the youth in the community grow and succeed.

**Tiffany Halstead-** Thanks for CiTi BOCES, the LOCY program is able to hold their monthly meetings at the CiTi South campus. There are currently 23 students registered in the LOCY program for this year, and so far, they have been doing great work. Kathleen Joyce mentioned a program called Youth Power which may be beneficial to this program as well. The Youth Bureau also has mini grants up to \$1,000 available.

**Tina Eusepi-** The youth clubhouse is all set in the pinewoods location. They are testing some of the alternative education students in Pulaski on WorkKeys. They recently hired Stephanie Meeker for the OCSD position they had available, and still have some street outreach positions, and a health educator position available. Tina also shared that the Fulton Block Builders have grants available for up to \$3,000 for some projects if you are located in the City of Fulton.

**Nicole Damboise-** ECHS students were able to do a minimum of 2 job shadow placements and students had good experiences, and some were able to recognize that certain environments may not be suitable for them. Oswego Health tuition program is still running strong and in 2024 they have awarded over \$245,000 (over \$850,000 since the start of the program in 2021).

**Brian Heffron-** Brian shared that NYS is proposing changes to graduation requirements to the board of regents. These changes would start for the class of 2028 and could potentially give students the opportunity to prove themselves in non-traditional ways aside from regents exams. With this change there will be only 1 diploma available to all, but it would be achievable in different ways for different students. NYS is working on a regionalization program to get districts to offer activities across district borders (Oswego County already does this), and they will be completing a needs assessment, and then complete a plan to broaden opportunities. CiTi is partnering with SUNY Oswego on an application for the Community Investment Fund-Green-CHIPS funding from Empire State Development to broaden STEM activities in Oswego County schools. CiTi is working on securing funding to offer EMT certifications to their Public Safety students, and they were awarded funding for their Women in Trades group. He also

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shared a request from Carol for assistance with permits for students who are in economically disadvantaged situations which Elizabeth will look into.

**Bridget Proulx-** CCC campuses are more vibrant than ever before. Students are involved, engaged, and active in activities. They are looking to implement the prior learning assessment at the college level for students to show what they have done in their careers/training and be able to apply it to their schooling. Bridget oversees the advantage program that assists with distance learning and currently has over 1,800 students participating. In the Spring they will go meet with the high school students that are taking advantage classes and providing guidance to them. They held a transfer and career fair at their Auburn campus recently that turned out great, and they will be replicating the event at the Fulton campus in the Spring.

**Angela Ferlito-** Fulton CSD is starting to look at ways that students can earn credits. They have tested 154 students so far on WorkKeys, and they are offering classes on the WorkKeys curriculum to the students to better prepare them for the test. They held a road to success career fair with all of the trades in attendance that will be replicated in the Spring. Angela will be focusing on soft skills workshops with the students this year. Angela also shared that they have a handful of students who aren't 18 yet that want extra learning opportunities such as internships if anyone was able to accommodate them.

**Kathleen Joyce-** Kathleen shared that ACCES-VR may be able to assist with permits if student has a documented disability and meets the economic need (400%). They have a new district office manager- Jim Thompson, and Pat Sheppard is now a statewide manager. They are looking to hire more VRC's and have changed the degree requirement to a Masters degree in a similar field. In January they will have more vendors available to work with Oswego County students.

**Tiffany Rush-** Onpoint is currently in 5 schools meeting with students and discussing plans after high school and how they can assist. They are also seeing a lot of students who have been disconnected from their families and are working through navigating those situations. They will also have financial aid assistance nights coming up soon.

There were no further updates at this time, but Brian encourages the group to maintain communication between each other. Brian Chetney called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathleen Joyce motioned to adjourn; Kim Sizemore seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m. at OCWNY located at 200 N. 2nd Street, Fulton, NY 13069.**

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