

TOMPKINS COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

May 18, 2021

8:30 A.M.

Zoom Platform

PRESENT: S. Pronti, A. Bishop, D. Burrows, J. Cometti, L. Dillon, B. Forrest, K. Franzese, K. Kephart, K. Kersey, P. Levesque, C. Malcolm, H. McDaniel, K. Shanks-Booth, T. Tarshus, C. Whitmore, J. Shapiro, K. Cerasaro, T. Bruer

EXCUSED: A. Iles, J. Matteson, J. Tavares

EX-OFFICIO: J. Mouillesseaux, A. Hendrix

GUESTS: C. Walters, Tompkins Seneca Tioga BOCES; D. Goodness, Workforce Development Institute; C. Harris, NYSDOL

STAFF: N. Branosky, S. Alvord, D. Achilles

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pronti called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 23, 2021

It was moved by Ms. Whitmore, seconded by Mr. Bishop, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of March 23, 2021 as written.

AFFIRM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION – Approval to Contract – 2021 Summer Youth Employment Program

It was moved by Ms. Dillon, seconded by Ms. Whitmore, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to ratify the Executive Committee action to approve the WDB to contract for 2021 Summer Youth Employment Program.

WDB DIRECTOR UPDATE – Group Discussion *Returning to Work: Challenges and Solutions*

Ms. Branosky announced the Workforce Development Board has hired a Deputy Director, R. Avila, who will start June 28th.

Ms. Branosky shared a presentation on what the next year and a half will look like as employers start to return employees back to their jobs. At this point in time, Tompkins County has gained jobs from the pandemic period.

Ms. Branosky reviewed ways for employers to think about to move back into re-hiring: American Rescue Plan, “guarantee an interview” to everyone, recruitment bonuses, workplace flexibility – office/remote, onsite – “make room for everyone to return”.

Mr. Pronti started a conversation with Board members to talk on experiences that they are seeing in their work locations. “Returning to Work: Challenges and Solutions.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pronti reported that the Executive Committee has been discussing the Deputy Director position and moving forward with hiring. The Committee has been reviewing data around unemployment claims pre and post pandemic. The Committee is discussing employment specific to the Tompkins County perspective.

B. ONE STOP OPERATIONS AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Mr. Bishop reported that the One Stop Operations and Oversight Committee met on Tuesday, May 11th and discussed security issues at the Career Center as staff and customers return. Mr. Bishop reviewed that the Career Center is still closed, and staff are working virtually. NYSDOL is working with limited staff in-person and Office of Employment and Training staff are still remote. NYSDOL is waiting for the Governor to make the decision when the Career Center can reopen. NYSDOL has announced the creation of a virtual platform for Career Centers that will be available by summer and will go into phase II late summer.

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Ms. Shanks-Booth reported that the Youth Oversight Committee are working to contract for the Summer Youth Employment Program with the Office of Employment and Training and the Ithaca Youth Bureau. The Committee is working on expanding and diversify the membership of the Committee. The Youth Oversight Committee will meet on Thursday, May 20th and will review members list and start outreach to new potential members.

C. GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mr. Burrows reported that the Governance and Membership Committee will meet Thursday, May 27th and will review the list of Board members that have expiring terms ending in June 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.