

Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Disabilities Workforce Committee
MINUTES

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 | *Workforce Development Board Conference Rm.*
119 E. Seneca Street, Suite 200B, Ithaca, NY 14850

Present: A. Tunison, B. Flaherty, A. McManus, B. Seekins, Jen Slade, C. Stanley, K. Rachetta

Excused: J. Lynch

Staff: C. Sponn, D. Achilles, S. Frost

Guest: N. Rohrer

Call To Order:

Mr. Tunison called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: April 9, 2024

It was moved by Ms. Slade, seconded by Ms. Stanley, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of April 9, 2024.

Approval of Minutes: June 11, 2024

It was moved by Ms. Slade, seconded by Ms. Stanley, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of June 11, 2024.

Discussion

Downtown Ithaca Alliance (DIA) - Presentation

Ms. Rohrer, Chief Executive Officer, Downtown Ithaca Alliance discussed with the Committee what her role is with Downtown Ithaca Alliance. Ms. Rohrer role is to focus on downtown/neighborhood revitalization and economic development. Ms. Rohrer works with four part-time ambassadors that have 22 blocks of the City of Ithaca and Business improvement district. Their motto is Clean, Green and Welcoming.

Ms. Rohrer is doing community outreach to see what is needed and economic development to support businesses and property owners. Ms. Rohrer is also working with Ms. Mohlenhoff, City Manager for the City of Ithaca on what else needs to be done.

Ms. Rohrer welcomes any volunteers to help with events. Her event team is a small crew that could use extra hands.

Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) Report

Ms. Stanley reported that not much is going on with the DRC. Ms. Stanley is working on quarterly reports for the state. She is also working on an implementation plan.

Ms. Stanley reported that the Disability Fair will be in June of next year. Ms. Stanley reported that the World of Skills Job Fair is yearly and will be at Hotel Ithaca on October 30, 2024.

Ms. Stanley reported that she is working with Mx. Frost on an article for the Disability Resource Coordinator on benefits advisement.

Director's Report

DTW Summer Cohort

Mr. Sponn reported that the summer Direct to work cohort is running and the Career Center referred 7 participants to the program. Mr. Sponn reported that Ms. Szabo will be starting registration for the DTW fall cohort.

Energy Warriors Program Updates

Mr. Sponn reported that Cornell Cooperative Extension and Mr. Airewele have worked with 1 transitional participants from the Career Center and has hired him full time.

Opportunity Fair with Cortland County

Mr. Sponn is in discussions with the Cortland WDB for an Opportunity Fair for area youth. Businesses and organizations from the area will showcase what their jobs and career pathways have to offer. It is not meant to be a traditional job fair.

OJT Program Development

Mr. Sponn reported they are internally reviewing an OJT program and looking at the capacity to implement this.

Tompkins Weekly Article

Mr. Sponn reported Tompkins Weekly highlighted the SYEP program this summer with a cover story.

Members Updates

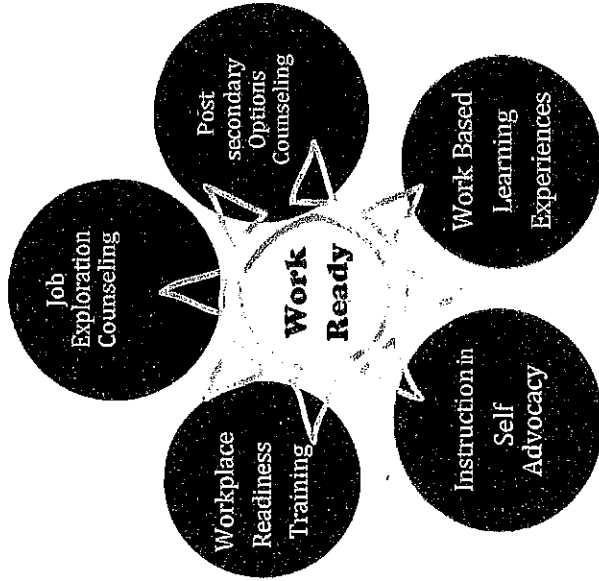
No updates.

Adjournment:

Mr. Tunison adjourned the meeting at 9:47a.m.

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Pre-ETS



Criteria for participation in Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS):

- Student with a documented disability,
AND
- Is enrolled in a secondary, post-
secondary, or other recognized
educational program, AND
- Is not younger than 14 years of age,
AND
- Is not older than 22 years of age when
enrolled in secondary education, OR,
- Is not older than of 21 years of age
when enrolled in post-secondary
education

Who We Are

About Us

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) starts with the presumption that all individuals with disabilities can benefit from vocational rehabilitation services and should have opportunities to work in competitive integrated jobs within their communities.

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors guide and support each individual to assist the individual in reaching their employment goal.

Contact Us

For more information call your local ACCES VR office or dial:
1-800-222-5627



http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/district_offices



The University of the State of NY
The State Education Department
Adult Career and Continuing
Education Services
Vocational Rehabilitation
89 Washington Avenue
Albany NY 12234

ACCES

Vocational Rehabilitation



PRE-ETS

Job Exploration Counseling

Work Based Learning Experiences

Post-secondary Options Counseling

Workplace Readiness Training to Develop Social Skills and Independent Living

Instruction in Self-Advocacy



Work Based Learning Experiences

Real workplace experiences to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will help connect school experiences to real-life work activities and future career opportunities.

- ✦ Job shadowing, career mentorship, and internships
- ✦ In-school or out of school opportunities
- ✦ Experiences outside the traditional school setting
- ✦ Collaborating with private, for-profit, public, or nonprofit businesses in your community
- ✦ In-depth engagement of youth and an evaluation of acquired work relevant skills



Workplace Readiness Training to develop social skills and independent living

Increases student employment readiness to prepare for success in the workplace. Skill development and workplace awareness to achieve employment goals.

- ✦ Resumé Development
- ✦ Interview Skills Preparation
- ✦ Expectations of Employer
- ✦ Teamwork Attitude Awareness
- ✦ Financial Literacy Introduction
- ✦ Work Environment Orientation

Pre-Employment-Transition Services for Students with Disabilities



Job Exploration Counseling

Fosters motivation and allows for informed decision-making while focusing on exploring career options, and career changes, career counseling, and employment-seeking methods.

- ✦ Vocational interest assessments
- ✦ Development of personal work values.
- ✦ Identifying career awareness and career pathways
- ✦ Exploration of the labor market/in-demand occupations/non-traditional employment options
- ✦ Goal setting, role playing, and paid or unpaid work experiences

Explore Your Future!



Post-Secondary Options

Counseling

Student exploration and planning on a variety of postsecondary education and training opportunities.

- ✦ Comprehensive Transition Programs.
- ✦ Community Colleges, Universities
- ✦ Vocational Training/Trade Schools
- ✦ Postsecondary Programs at community colleges/universities for students with intellectual, developmental disabilities
- ✦ Individualized student strategies to support smooth transition from high school to postsecondary education including- technology needs, attending college fairs, and connecting to disability support services.



Instruction In Self Advocacy

Develops students' ability to effectively communicate, convey, negotiate or assert their own interests and/or desires.

- ✦ Self Determination
- ✦ Decision Making/Problem Solving
- ✦ Identifying and requesting accommodations
- ✦ Understanding rights and responsibilities
- ✦ How to request and accept help
- ✦ Taking leadership in support plans
- ✦ Ability to monitor progress
- ✦ Positive Self talk

Pre-Employment Transition Services through ACCES VR

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) are a specific category of services defined in the Workplace Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed into federal law July 22, 2014. Pre-ETS are specifically designed for students with disabilities between the ages 14-22. With WIOA emphasis on early outreach to students with disabilities, it is expected that students who are age 14 and/or more than two years prior to anticipated exit from high school will receive Pre-ETS services without formal application to ACCES-VR.

Job Exploration Counseling

- Vocational Interest Assessments
- Development of personal work values
- Identifying career awareness and career pathways
- Exploration of Labor Market/in-demand occupations
- Providing information about non-traditional employment options, including military, entrepreneurship, and self-employment
- Developing opportunities for career speakers and informational interviews/attending career fairs



Workplace Readiness Training to Develop Social Skills and Independent Living

- Resume Development
- Interview Skills Preparation
- Expectations of Employers
- Teamwork Attitude Awareness
- Financial Literacy Introduction
- Developing professional communications such as email addresses and voice messages
- Understanding the value of soft skills and applying the skills in the workplace
- Reviewing personal hygiene and grooming expectations in the workplace
- Understanding appropriate clothing across workplace environments and activities (e.g., interview attire vs. employer dress code)



Post-Secondary Options Counseling

- Explore types of academic, vocational, and occupational training needed to succeed in the workplace: i.e. Community Colleges, Universities, Apprenticeships
- Postsecondary opportunities associated with a career field or comprehensive transition pathways
- Advise on college/vocational training applications and admissions processes, and completing the FAFSA
- Connect to the disability support services that would be available through other state agencies such as OPWDD or OMH
- Identifying and accessing accommodations
- Individualized student strategies to support a seamless transition from high school to postsecondary education, including:



Instructions in Self Advocacy

- Self awareness/understanding the nature of one's disability
- Decision Making/Problem Solving
- Identifying/requesting needed accommodations
- Connecting with peers/natural supports
- Connecting with services available in the community and support to apply
- Identifying intrinsic strengths and abilities
- Understanding rights and responsibilities
- How to request and accept help
- Taking leadership in support plans
- Ability to monitor progress
- Positive Self talk



Who is Eligible for Pre-ETS?

- Has a documented disability, AND
- Is enrolled in a secondary, post-secondary, or other recognized educational program (e.g., home school, high school equivalency programs, college or a vocational technical program), AND
- Is not younger than 14 years of age, AND
- Is not older than 22 years of age or reached their 23rd birthday when enrolled in secondary education under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), OR
- Is not older than of 21 years of age or reached their 22nd birthday when enrolled in post-secondary education

How Does a Student with a Disability Receive Pre-ETS?

SWDs may receive Pre-ETS in one of two ways:

- **Potentially eligible (PE) for ACCES-VR services** and receive Pre-ETS without applying for ACCES-VR services.
- **Have applied for and been determined eligible by ACCES-VR** and receive Pre-ETS as a service documented on their Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

Where Can a Student Receive Pre ETS services?

- Staff can meet students at their school during a free period
- Staff can meet students at a local library
- Staff can meet students at our own agency office
- Staff can meet students at partner agencies