

Tompkins County Workforce Development Board
Services to Individuals with Disabilities Committee

MINUTES

**Tuesday, December 13, 2023 | Workforce Development Board Conference Rm.
119 E. Seneca Street, Suite 200B, Ithaca, NY 14850**

Present: A. Tunison, J. Beaumont, J. Lynch, C. Stanley

Excused: C. Boone, D. Barr, B. Flaherty, B. Seekins

Staff: C. Sponn, D. Achilles

Guest: C. Holmes, Tompkins County Chief Equity and Diversity Officer County

Call To Order:

Mr. Tunison called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: April 11, 2023
June 13, 2023
August 8, 2023
December 13, 2023

Due to lack of voting members present to achieve quorum; the vote to approval of minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Chief Equity & Diversity Officer, County Administration - Charlene Holmes

Ms. Holmes presentation is attached.

Ms. Stanley arrived at 8:42 a.m.

Ms. Lynch arrived at 8:44 a.m.

Discussion

Updating Committee Name and Duties

Mr. Sponn will update and send out a survey list of potential names for the Committee to current members.

Board Outreach and Connecting with Businesses

Mr. Sponn reported that the staff is trying to build better relationships with businesses through the NY-SCION grant to become aware of how to become ADA compliant.

Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) Report

Ms. Stanley reported there is a need for more events to bring awareness to the community. Ms. Stanley would like to extend events to Tompkins County Schools for students and parents to be aware of what support there are in the community for disabilities.

Ms. Stanley attended a Reentry Mental Health Fair and there was not high attendance. There needs to be more outreach to the community on events that are happening.

Director's Report

NYSDOL Program Monitoring Audit OTDA SYEP 23 Review

Mr. Sponn reported that Workforce Development is in the process of NYSDOL Program Monitoring Audit and OTDA SYEP 2023 Review and submitting files that are being requested.

Career Center New Location Discussion with NYSDOL

Mr. Sponn reported that the County is looking for a long-term location for the Career Center. This location will be for Workforce Development staff and NYSDOL staff to be co-located per State requirements.

Micron Future Ready Consortium at Le Moyne College (10/18)

Mr. Sponn reported that Micron will bring 9,000 jobs to the region.

NYATEP Conference in Syracuse (10/23-10/25)

Mr. Sponn reported that he attended the NYATEP Conference and connected with partners from various Career Centers. He will be visiting them to see how they operate programs and is inviting them to come to Tompkins County for a site visit.

ERN Career Navigator/Success Coach

Mr. Sponn reported that he is working with the Tompkins Chamber on the Employee Resource Network (ERN). The Tompkins Chamber is currently organizing meetings and partners and are will utilize funds to start this program. ERN Success Coaches will support workers with healthcare, childcare, drug addictions, transportation challenges etc. The goal is to better support entry-level workers so they will remain in the workforce longer. The Coach will help guide them in the right direction for resources and are meant to be another layer of support. These supports cannot be found with a traditional HR and workers may not feel comfortable talking to their work/direct supervisor about these challenges they face.

Career Center Update

Mr. Sponn reported that the Workforce Development Board and Office of Employment and Training has transitioned from two departments to one. Mr. Sponn is in the process of moving forward with hiring a Communication Specialist and Deputy Director of the Board.

Mr. Sponn reported that on the County website they are working to add a DRC page to the current site.

Adjournment:

Mr. Tunison adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m.