

Tompkins County Workforce Development Board

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 | 121 E. Seneca Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

Present: S. Pronti, K. Babuka, T. Bruer, K. Cerasaro, J. Cometti, K. Franzese, D. Harrington, L. Holden, C. Malcolm, H. McDaniel, S. Pennell, K. Shanks-Booth, J. Tavares, A. Tunison, D. Vreeland, S. Waight, C. Walter, Y. Wu, B. Nugent

Excused: S. Cerquone, K. Kephart, P. Levesque, T. Olson, C. Whitmore

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

Guest: S. Paczkowski, New York State Department of Labor; C. Harris, New York State Department of Labor; M. Smith, Tompkins County Teamsters; D. Szabo, Ithaca Area Economic Development; J. Vander Hulst, ERN USA; M. Marks, Tompkins Chamber

Call to Order

Mr. Pronti, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Board Action Items

Approval of Minutes - April 23, 2024

It was moved by Ms. Shanks-Booth, seconded by Ms. Vreeland, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of April 23, 2024, as written.

Approval of Minutes - May 21, 2024

It was moved by Mr. Tunison, seconded by Ms. Franzese, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of May 21, 2024, as written.

Approval of Workforce Development Operating Fiscal Budget for Program Year 2024 - 2025

It was moved by Ms. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Malcolm, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the Workforce Development Operating Fiscal Budget for Program Year 2024 - 2025.

Approval of Workforce Development WIOA Service Provider Fiscal Budget for Program Year 2024 - 2025

It was moved by Ms. Walter, seconded by Ms. Pennell, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the Workforce Development WIOA Service Provider Fiscal Budget for Program Year 2024 - 2025.

Approval to Authorize the Director to Transfer up to \$40,000.00 in PY24 funding between Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs

It was moved by Ms. Shanks-Booth, seconded by Ms. Tavares, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve authorizing the Director to transfer up to \$40,000.00 in PY24 funding between adult and dislocated worker.

Presentation on Employee Resource Network (ERN)

Mr. Vander Hulst's presentation is attached.

Workforce Development Director Update

Application for NDWG for Opioid Crisis

Mr. Sponn reported no updates on the grant.

2nd Annual Disability Transition and Resource Fair

Mr. Sponn reported the second annual Disability Transition and Resource Fair was held on June 5th at Ithaca High School. 21 organizations were represented and there were around 60 attendees. This was an opportunity for community members to learn about local services that can help support people as they transition into adulthood.

There was also a raffle with prizes. Thanks to Mr. Malcom for Wegman's donation, GreenStar, Buffalo Street Books, Cinemapolis Gimme! Coffee, and Unity House for prize donations.

Planning for Opportunity Fair with Cortland County

Mr. Sponn reported at a previous meeting, it was discussed holding a similar fair that Cortland County had done for their high schoolers. Mr. Sponn talked with Ms. Buggs of Cortland WDB and she would like to collaborate with Tompkins on a Cortland/Tompkins Opportunity Fair for area youth. The event would expose youth to multiple career pathways and local businesses they could potentially work at in the future.

DTW Summer Cohort Recruitment

Mr. Sponn reported Tompkins Workforce New York is having an info session today at the Career Center. There are 20 people attending and Ms. Holland-Bavis of IAED will have additional people attending. Community members will have a chance to attend a second info session at IAED on July 12, 2024.

Southern Tier - Regional Business Services Team Meeting

Mr. Sponn reported he was supposed to present on Micron but I had a scheduling conflict and will present at next meeting.

1115 Health Equity Waiver Regional Meeting

Mr. Sponn reported Medicare funds will be allowed to be used for workforce training programs. This is meant to target the workforce shortage and strengthen the healthcare workforce. Ms. Achilles attended for Mr. Sponn and staff will be collaborating with regional partners on opportunities for involvement.

Micron Consortium Meeting at Onondaga Community College

Mr. Sponn reported that looking for skilled labor and filling jobs are a top priority for the project. Ms. Achilles attended the meeting for Mr. Sponn.

Strategic Tourism Planning Board (STPB) Budget Committee Meeting

Mr. Sponn reported that Workforce Development received \$20,000.00 that will support Hospitality and Tourism for summer youth employment program worksites and career exploration and Career Center services related to tourism. Mr. Sponn will be reporting to the committee with data to support the funding received.

BorgWarner Tour

Mr. Sponn reported Tompkins Workforce New York toured BorgWarner. Mr. Sponn thanked Ms. Pennell for giving the staff a tour and for a productive workforce conversation after the meeting.

Youth Employment Resource (YERT) Meetings

Mr. Sponn reported that YERT is a team of organizations that provide services to youth in the community. Mr. Sponn reported that Mx. Frost is creating a directory of contact for organizations to use. Then Mx. Frost will create a directory of contact for the community that will have general contacts and better align services and awareness of what is available.

Adopted Tompkins County Strategic Operations Plan and Workforce Development

Mr. Sponn reported last week the Tompkins County Legislature approved the first ever Strategic Operations plan for Tompkins County. Workforce development is listed in a couple of objectives and Mr. Sponn is excited to work towards those objectives. Mr. Sponn said Mx. Frost will help build the messaging of what the department is doing and create better awareness of all the successes going on at the Career Center.

September Board Retreat Meeting

Mr. Sponn reported that Ms. Achilles and himself toured the Downtown Conference Center as they are reviewing locations for the September Board Retreat. Mr. Sponn received a quote this morning and it is within budget. Mr. Sponn reported he will share more information once plans are confirmed and also expects to have a NYATEP representative speak at the Retreat.

Mr. Sponn reported NYATEP closed the listing for the Executive Director role and are looking to fill the role by the fall. The position has remained vacant since Ms. Mack passed way.

Career Center Update

Mr. Sponn reported that Ms. Basilius accepted the Deputy Workforce Development Director position for the Career Center. Ms. Basilius will give Career Center updates in the future.

Mr. Sponn thanked everyone for coming to the meeting to get the 2024 -2025 Fiscal Budgets approved. Mr. Sponn thanked the Board for their dedication to the Tompkins WDB and enthusiasm and ability to share all sorts of perspectives. Mr. Sponn says he and the department value this engagement and it helps drive their work.

Mr. Cerasaro reported that NYSDOL is moving forward with one teacher ambassador that will begin July 8, 2024. The teacher ambassador will be visiting 10 businesses within the community and taking the knowledge of what skills that are needed for workforce and bring that back to the schools and students.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Mr. Pronti reported that the Executive Committee met and discussed the 2024 - 2025 Fiscal Budget numbers.

One Stop Operations and Oversight Committee

Ms. Franzese reported the One Stop Operations and Oversight Committee has not met and will have the next meeting in July.

Youth Oversight Committee

Ms. Shanks-Booth reported the Youth Oversight Committee met in June. The Committee discussed the allocation for 2024 Summer Youth Employment Program and how to allocate between Workforce Development and Ithaca Youth Bureau. Ms. Shanks-Booth reported that in the future Workforce Development will be asked to submit a budget for the Committee to review.

Governance and Membership Committee

Ms. Babuka reported that the Governance and Membership Committee has not met.

Disabilities Workforce Committee

Mr. Tunison reported the Committee met in June. Mx. Frost presented a disability resource guide draft and discussed ways to keep contact of organizations that help individuals with disabilities up to date for reference.

Unfinished Business

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 09:52 a.m.