

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

JANUARY 27, 2009

8:30 A.M.

BORG WARNER ROOM – TC PUBLIC LIBRARY

PRESENT: B. Bantle, R. Bohman, D. Bradac, D. Chadwick, M. Coldren, P. Gardner, C. Haynes, L. Holmes, D. Huston, J. Little, D. Marsh, P. McKee, B. Myers, M. Opperman, M. Stamm, M. Talarski, J. Wesche

EXCUSED: B. Blanchard, D. Herath, J. McPheeters, E. O'Donnell, L. Patz, A. Pedersen, M. Turnbull, N. Zahler

ABSENT: P. Carey, L. Dillon, L. Leonard, R. Pass

GUESTS: J. Mareane, Tompkins County Administration; W. Powers, NYSDOL; M. Armstrong, TCAD; M. Mangino, Workforce Development Institute; A. Clinton, Tompkins County Office for the Aging; T. DiLucci, TST BOCES

STAFF: J. Mattick, Jennifer Luu

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pedersen called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and introductions followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Mr. Little, seconded by Ms. Myers and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of November 18, 2008.

SPOTLIGHT ON TOMPKINS WORKFORCE NY CAREER CENTER

Ms. Bradac provided information relating to the One Stop Center, who the partners are within the One-Stop System and the business and job seeker services that are available. In 2008 an average of 560 customers were served each month. The center had a 67% adult employment placement rate, 97% adult employment retention rate, and managed 80 training accounts. There were 21 WIA youth placed in subsidized employment, and the summer youth employment program served 180 young people. Within the Job LINK Program, 20 youth went on to post secondary education. Additionally, workshops within the center continue to increase and on average seven "Meet the Employer" sessions were held each month. Center staff also participated in 5 job and career fairs.

Moving forward in these tough economic times, staff will continue to strive to minimize hassles, be responsible with resources, continuously improve services and eliminate duplication of services. Ms. Bradac's complete presentation is available by contacting the WIB office.

SHARED WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Powers from the New York State Department of Labor provided an overview of the Shared Work Program. The Program is a voluntary program that provides employers facing a temporary decline in business with an alternative to layoffs. Rather than laying off a percentage of the work force to cut costs, an employer can reduce the hours and wages of all or a particular group of employees. The employees whose hours and wages are reduced can receive partial unemployment insurance benefits to supplement their lost wages.

The Shared Work Program helps employers avoid some of the burdens that accompany a layoff. If employees are retained during a temporary slowdown, employers can quickly gear up when business conditions improve. Employers are then spared the expense of recruiting, hiring, and training new employees, and employees are spared the hardships of full unemployment.

More information can be obtained NYSDOL website <http://www.labor.state.ny.us/ui/dande/sharedwork1.shtml>

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS-2009 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

It was Moved by Ms. Myers on behalf of the Youth Employment Council and unanimously seconded to approve the release of the Request for Proposals for the 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program. Ms. Mattick noted that the program will be expanded to include the WIA stimulus funding.

WIB/SCHOOL DISTRICT COLLABORATION

Ms. Mattick provided a report on Mr. Coldren's behalf. Mr. Coldren has agreed to move the WIB/School collaboration forward. At this time Mr. Coldren, Brenda Myers, Judy Pastel, Ellen O'Donnell are participating in discussions and it is expected additional participants will join the discussion once the initial group begins to solidify projects to move forward. The group is currently discussing two projects, the first being a summer internship program for teachers. This will help teachers provide relevance in the classroom. The second project is to move toward providing career exploration to students in a virtual way. The group will be meeting again on February 25, 2009 and WIB members will be kept informed as the group's activities progress.

WIB DIRECTORS REPORT

Ms. Mattick stated it is expected that there will be a substantial increase in WIA funds in the federal stimulus package. She has been meeting with providers to discuss ways to ramp up programs quickly once the funds are approved. It is expected she will have a much clearer sense of the funding at the next WIB meeting and will provide additional information at that time.

OTHER

Ms. Mattick introduced Mary Ellen Mangino from the Workforce Development Institute. Ms. Mangino stated WDI supports organized labor and working families and provides workforce intelligence, education and training programs, as well as other activities. The Institute also offers technical assistance to Workforce Investment Boards, and state, county and municipal governments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. The next WIB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Borg Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library.