

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

**MARCH 24, 2009**

**8:30 A.M.**

**BORG WARNER ROOM – TC PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**PRESENT:** B. Bantle, B. Blanchard, R. Bohman, D. Bradac, P. Gardner, C. Haynes, L. Holmes, J. Little, P. McKee, B. Myers, E. O'Donnell, R. Pass, L. Patz, A. Pedersen, M. Stamm, M. Turnbull, J. Wesche, N. Zahler

**EXCUSED:** D. Chadwick, M. Coldren, J. McPheeters, M. Opperman, M. Talarski

**ABSENT:** P. Carey, L. Dillon, D. Huston, L. Leonard, D. Marsh

**GUESTS:** M. Armstrong, TCAD; M. Hughes, NYSDOL

**STAFF:** J. Mattick, Jennifer Luu

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pedersen called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FEEDBACK AND REPORT OUT ON MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

Ms. Armstrong provided an update on the process that was used for the March 20<sup>th</sup> stake holders group session and provided a handout that prioritized the themes that were identified. The process went very well and moving forward the themes will be further framed up and provided to the workforce steering committee and then brought to the full WIB for review.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was Moved by Mr. Pass, seconded by Mr. Bantle and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of January 27, 2009.

**APPROVAL TO CONTRACT FOR THE 2009 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

It was Moved by Blanchard, seconded by Ms. Herath and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to confirm the Executive Committee's action authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate contracts with the Ithaca Youth Bureau, the Tompkins County Office of Employment and Training, and Tompkins Community Action to operate the 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program.

**APPROVAL OF GAS CARD PROGRAM**

It was Moved by Blanchard, seconded by Ms. Herath and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to confirm the Executive Committee's action authorizing the implementation of the gas card program to provide gas cards to adult, dislocated or youth participants while they are receiving core, intensive or training services for the period March 2 – June 30, 2009.

**BUSINESS/EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. O'Donnell reported the subcommittee was formed following the WIB/School Superintendent's meeting in September 2008 to look at ways workforce development and schools can collaborate. One idea the group is working on is the creation of virtual video field trips highlighting innovate companies, with the outcome being a tangible product that can used in the classroom to reach more students.

Another idea of the group is to provide career shadowing for teachers this summer that will help bring relevance into the classroom.

Ms. Zahler suggested using students with technical expertise to help with the videotaping of the program. Ms. Mattick stated there has been some discussion about using Ithaca College students for this very purpose. Mr. Little stated Cornell has a similar program that could be useful as well.

## **FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDING**

Ms. Mattick reported that \$571,000 in federal stimulus funding has been received and the breakdown is as follows: \$376,000 youth, \$27,000 adult, and \$110,000 dislocated worker. The remainder is Administration. She stated the dislocated worker funds will help offset the substantial need in that area. She noted 70 percent of the funding will need to be expended by December 31, 2009 and 100 percent by June 30, 2010. These dates will be recapture points and it is her hope that Tompkins County will be the recipient of recaptured funds. Mr. Bohman stated the State is moving up the timeline because they are looking for recaptured funds at the national level and if the State is the recipient of recaptured funds it will look as though they were fast to respond.

Ms. Mattick stated a significant amount of funding will be put into this summer's youth program and a very public campaign will commence to recruit youth and worksites for the program. An intensive support program for youth attending TC3 will also be implemented jointly with the Cayuga Cortland WIB with the thought being that this will help individuals who might not succeed in a college atmosphere to do so.

Ms. Mattick also noted that the stimulus funding will also allow for the purchase of entire training classes versus individual classes and this will be much more cost effective. The funding can also be used for on-the-job training.

## **WIB DIRECTORS REPORT**

Ms. Mattick stated the Biocareer fair is being held on March 25, 2009 at the Clarion Hotel. There are nearly 100 participants signed up and 17 business exhibiting.

## **ONE STOP CENTER REPORT**

Ms. Bradac provided distributed her report. It is as follows:

### **Tompkins Workforce New York Labor Market Information Update, March 2009**

The unemployment rate is continuing to climb (March 09; US is 8.5, New York is 7.8 and Tompkins County is 5.7). The U.S. rate was 8.5 percent in March 2009, up from 8.1 percent in February. In March 2008, the nation's rate was 5.1 percent. New York State's unemployment rate, after seasonal adjustment, was unchanged at 7.8 percent in March 2009. In March 2008, the state's rate was 4.8 percent. Unemployment rates in surrounding Counties are increasing faster than TC; we are still the lowest in NY State at 5.7.

**Unemployment Rates\* (seasonally adjusted)**

	<b>March 2009</b>	<b>February 2009</b>	<b>March 2008</b>
Tompkins County	<b>5.7</b>	3.4	2.2
New York State	<b>7.8</b>	7.8	4.8
United States	<b>8.5</b>	8.1	5.1
New York City	<b>8.1</b>	8.1	4.6
NYS, excluding NYC	<b>7.6</b>	7.6	5.0

\*Data are preliminary and subject to change.

According to Christian Harris (DOL Regional Analyst for Southern Tier), since March 2008, the number of nonfarm jobs in the **Southern Tier** has decreased by 100, or 0.2 percent, and the number of private sector jobs has decreased by 100, or 0.2 percent. The Southern Tier's unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in March 2009, compared with 3.8 in March 2008. Job gains remained largest in education and health services (+700). Losses were greatest in manufacturing (-1,300), trade, transportation and utilities (-1000), and leisure and hospitality (-600), natural resources, mining and construction (-400), and professional and business services (-400).

**Job seeker customers** have increased steadily at Tompkins Workforce New York for several months now averaging about 560 individuals a month (up 29% in six months). Individuals are keeping accounts active longer and requesting more services before obtaining employment or training. We are strongly encouraging this time as an investment time for education, training and re-training when/where possible.

Tompkins Workforce New York continues to **post jobs and openings** (there are jobs here!) but at a 21% lower rate than six months ago. Businesses are responding in a number of ways - working smarter, holding/freezing hiring, reducing staff hours, minimizing operational costs, cutting programs and services, early retirement packages, using DOL Shared Work option, relying more heavily on community collaborations, using part time or temp options, etc.

The length of time on **unemployment** has been lengthened (26 weeks then, 7, 13 and soon longer) providing an immediate resolution for individuals and families but damaging long term consequences for NY State.

We are experiencing an **increased level of anxiety, nervousness and uncertainty** around employment and unemployment issues with both employers and job seekers. We have unprecedented questions about unemployment, benefits, financial assistance, etc. Recent improvements with technology systems and staffing at the call centers have addressed and resolved many concerns about delays in getting unemployment questions answered.

We have increasing requests for **local/community resources and support** while job searching (help with financial issues/crisis, transportation, immediate short term training options, help with tax preparation, assistance with household basics such as food, heat and energy costs), etc. We are referring to local resources and helping to keep people informed about short and long term solutions.

Finally, we are collaborating with local partners and community groups to position ourselves for **stimulus funding focusing on jobs and training** for green collar, infrastructure, healthcare, energy, etc. Several areas highlighted as priorities are:

Clean, Efficient American Energy  
Transform the Economy with Science and Technology  
Modernizing Roads, Bridges, Transit and Waterways

Workforce Investment Board  
March 24, 2009

Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Tax Cuts to Make Work Pay and Create Jobs  
Help Workers Hurt by the Economy  
Save Public Sector Jobs and Protect Vital Services

We are keeping a voice for Tompkins County in Washington, DC and Albany. We will keep the community informed as to funding opportunities and awards.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m. The next WIB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Borg Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library. **\*\*The meeting was subsequently changed to June 9, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.**

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Luu.