

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MAY 18, 2004

8:30 A.M.

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

PRESENT: R. Bohman, P. Carey, T. Colbert, D. Czerwonka, L. Dillon, P. Gardner, C. Haynes, D. Herath, L. Leonard, J. Little, T. Mallinson, D. McDonald, P. McKee, J. McPheeters, T. O'Neill, M. Opperman, R. Pass, L. Patz, J. Rossi, C. Sowards, M. Stamm, M. Turnbull, N. Zahler

EXCUSED: B. Blanchard, A. Edelman, K. Mann, A. Pedersen, I. Stein, J. Wesche

ABSENT: W. Cooke, B. Fortier, D. Marsh, N. Meacham, S. Pronti, S. White

GUESTS: D. Chodan, J. Flynn, D. Elliott, NYSDOL; B. Fuller, Tompkins Cortland Community College; B. Heath, Tompkins County Office of Employment and Training; M. Hall, PFA Consulting; T. Joseph, Tompkins County Legislature

STAFF: Debra Giordano, Jennifer Luu

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Turnbull called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sowards reported the annual workforce celebration will be held June 22, 2004 to celebrate the Workforce New York System as well as the One-Stop Center. Several motivational speakers will be brought in to present to staff, a presentation will be given by Ms. Giordano, who will be providing an overview of the workforce system as well as her trip to Africa, and raffles and door prizes will be available.

Ms. Dillon reported Tompkins Community Action will be having their annual meeting May 21 at the Women's Community Building.

Ms. Giordano reported that Mr. McDonald will be retiring from the City of Ithaca June 4, 2004 and he will be relocating to Hawaii to live with his daughter and new grandchild. She stated Mr. McDonald has had a long history with workforce development and thanked him for being both a friend and a mentor.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION(S) UNDER THE CONSENT AGENDA

It was Moved by Ms. McPheeters, seconded by Ms. Sowards, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present, to approve the following items under the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of January 27, 2004 Minutes

COMMITTEE UPDATES

JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mr. Hall provided the update on behalf of the Joint Planning Committee. He reported that the Workforce Summit was held on April 22, 2004 with Ed Barlow as the featured speaker. The summit had a lot of energy and met the goal of getting a healthy discussion started in the community about the importance of shaping our workforce for the future. A summary document of the summit is being put together that will be used to continue the discussion within the community. A series of discussions will be held on the Casey Stevens show, a meeting is scheduled with the Ithaca Journal's Editorial Board, focus groups will be held in July and the final report should be available at the end of the summer.

Mr. Little thanked Mr. Hall for doing a terrific job pulling together all of the details for the summit. Ms. Turnbull recognized the panelists who participated in the panel discussion, which led to the break out groups being able to provide valuable feedback.

OUT OF AFRICA PRESENTATION

Ms. Giordano provided a slide presentation on her recent trip to Africa. She stated the trip had a profound impact on her both personally and professionally and she was very grateful to have been given the opportunity to participate.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES

Ms. Giordano stated that due to changes in how the Census 2000 determines economically disadvantaged youth, Tompkins County received a substantially larger youth funding allocation in 2004-2005. The change now takes into consideration the college population, which dramatically increases Tompkins County funding. In the past approximately \$100,000 was received annually between WIA and TANF funding. This year, there is a combined total of over \$500,000 available to address youth employment issues within the community. The funding is targeted to low-income youth with barriers and the increase will provide a greater opportunity to impact youth employment. She asked the Board for their input on how the funds might best be directed.

Ms. Opperman stated the funding could provide an opportunity to help employers who might not otherwise be able to hire youth by helping to defray salaries. She stated the Youth Employment Council is moving forward with a “passport” concept for youth that the youth would be able to take with them from job to job that indicates they have been exposed to basic skills. She stated if the funding is lower in future years the employer has had the opportunity for at least one year and would possibly take the chance and hire youth in the future.

There was also discussion about providing a one-stop concept in schools, particularly in rural areas where transportation is a concern. Mr. Bohman suggested taking the one-stop approach to schools and hiring students to provide the services. Mr. O'Neill stated that having the programs in schools is ideal because that is where youth are. He also noted that depending how the funding is made available to the schools, they can leverage additional services through BOCES.

Ms. Opperman suggested starting the program in schools in rural areas and providing opportunities for small businesses to sustain themselves and possibly hire youth.

ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by Ms. Dillon, seconded by Mr. Little and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2004, at 8:30 a.m. in the Borg-Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library.