

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MAY 24, 2005

8:30 A.M.

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

PRESENT: B. Blanchard, T. Colbert, D. Cooper, L. Dillon, J. Fogler, C. Haynes, L. Leonard, T. Mallinson, J. Mattick, P. McKee, J. McPheeters, M. Opperman, S. Pronti, J. Rossi, M. Stamm, I. Stein, M. Turnbull, J. Wesche, N. Zahler

EXCUSED: R. Bohman, R. Fortier, D. Herath, J. Little, K. Mann, R. Pass, L. Patz, A. Pederson

ABSENT: P. Carey, D. Czerwonka, P. Gardner, D. Marsh, S. White

GUESTS: J. Flynn, T. Doherty, New York State Department of Labor; S. Gillis, TST BOCES; S. Varvyanis, Cornell University; V. Zeppelin, Tech Prep Program

STAFF: Debra Giordano, Jennifer Luu

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Turnbull called the meeting to order at 8:33.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Zahler announced a list of summer youth employment opportunities can be obtained on the County Youth Services website at http://www.tompkins-co.org/youth/p_and_y.html. The information is also available on the WIB website at <http://www.tompkinsworkforceny.org/>.

Ms. Blanchard announced that the WIB's funding request to the County Legislature in the amount of \$40,830 was unanimously approved by the County Legislature. The funding will be used to maintain operations through 2005 and requested because competitive funding opportunities have not been available to cover the shortfall in the 2005 budget. She stated there is a great amount of support from the Legislature for the WIB's activities.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

It was Moved by Ms. Stein, seconded by Mr. Pronti and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of March 22, 2005, as written.

INFORMATION FOR FUTURE DECISIONS

Youth Employment Council

Ms. Opperman reported the Job Link Program is on track to meet their goals following the slow start-up of the program. She reported a Request for Proposals will be released for the TANF Summer Youth Employment Program and there will be approximately \$147,000 available for program delivery.

Workforce Services Committee

Mr. Stamm reported the Committee is in the process of updating the demand occupations list and establishing performance measures. They are also looking at the basic business model and at what other WIB's are doing to sustain their operations.

Partners Table

Ms. Dillon reported the Partners have been struggling to meet the expenses of the One-Stop and they had to make the very difficult decision to lay-off a valuable staff member and move the downstairs operations upstairs to co-locate with the Department of Labor. She stated the Partners have two years of outstanding bills to reconcile and they do not know how they will pay those costs. Logistics for the move are being finalized. Mr. Rossi stated that DOL has adequate space to accommodate everyone. Ms. Blanchard asked if signage would still be available on the Commons. Ms. Mattick stated this is being discussed with the landlord and every effort will be made to inform the public about the upstairs location; however, an initial drop in customers may occur.

WIB STAFF REPORT

Center Operations

Ms. Giordano reported that since the last meeting there have been over 400 new job listings, 28 new business users, and 485 customers obtained jobs. Staff are participating in customer service training and once completed they will receive the customer service credential through the National Retail Foundation. Center management hopes to apply for a promising practices grant focused on customer service in July and if successful this would bring approximately \$75,000 into the system. Ideas proposed for the grant funding must be able to be replicated throughout New York State. She also reported several workshops have also been added to the menu of services available at the center and more information about the workshops can be obtained on the WIB's website.

Ms. Zahler if it is possible to track how a person is doing once they gain employment. Ms. Giordano stated the State does random surveys of businesses and customers served, but locally the capacity does not exist to check on the universal population. Ms. McPheeters stated the State of Florida uses their tax and finance records very effectively to track what kinds of training and education lead to individuals becoming very well employed. They are very well connected to their workforce system through various software programs.

Ms. Giordano stated that New York has been penalized for not doing a better job in this area; in fact, New York is not eligible for incentive funding because a mandated partner is unable to meet one of their performance measures. The partner could not provide substantiation through their records because New York does not allow that partner to match up with the wage reporting system.

Legislative Update

Ms. Giordano reported that the Senate Policy Committee just passed its version of the Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization Bill and the next steps for the legislation will be to conference on both the House and Senate versions.

She stated that under the new version, the local WIB structure is preserved unless the local area is not meeting their performance measures. Some items of note in the legislation are:

- The Youth Council becomes an option, not a requirement. New York State has indicated they will require it at the State level.
- Department of Social Services will become a mandated partner. Currently they participate, but are not required.
- The local memorandum of understanding and negotiations process remains in the new bill; however, the Governor is given the option of taking a portion of the federal allocation off the top of each partner's allocation and forwarding it down to the local WIB. This could mean more money, or less, and it isn't clear if the Governor would opt to do this.

- Funding changes for youth include being able to use free/reduced lunch for eligibility, the funding can be used to fund on-the-job training, financial literacy, and entrepreneurial training, and if the funding isn't spent it will be lost.
- The formula for the Adult and Dislocated Worker funding places greater emphasis on the unemployment rate and again, if it isn't spent, it will be lost. The legislation also calls for no more stand-alone DOL offices and One-Stops must have a dedicated business liaison.

Ms. Giordano reported the Bush administration is unhappy with both the House and Senate versions. They support block grants to Governors with more Governor control on local WIBS, and also the establishment of MEGA WIB's with a minimum population of 500,000 people. She noted the population requirement will affect the entire State of New York and noted there have been a few states where the entire state has become a WIB.

Benchmarking Survey

Ms. Giordano provided an overview of the Benchmarking One-Stops Survey that was conducted. The presentation can be viewed at <http://www.tompkinsworkforceny.org/Benchmarking/frame.htm> . The Board began discussions about partnering with another WIB and what the WIB would be able to bring to such a partnership. It was Moved by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Stamm and unanimously approved by voice vote of members present to move forward begin looking at various scenarios for the WIB's structure. Staff was asked to prepare three scenarios for review.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. in the Borg-Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library.