

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2017

The Jefferson-Lewis Executive Board met on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at The WorkPlace, 1000 Coffeen Street, Watertown, NY. All members of the executive committee were present: Matthew Cooper, Chair; Mike Britt, Vice Chair; Mike Schantz, Vice Chair; John O'Driscoll, Secretary; and Cheryl Mayforth, Executive Director. Also present was Tim Maloney, One-Stop Operator.

Executive Director Mayforth provided a review of the upcoming agenda along with an update on both the MOU process and the local plan.

Executive Director Mayforth provided an update on the award of the ESPRI initiative for the Employer Resource Network. This proposal was approved by the local ESPRI committees and still needs final approval from OTDA in Albany before an RFP can be issued to sub-contract out the funds. Further discussion ensued on what the ERN can do for local employers and the difficulties to keep people employed when they have issues that sometimes can cause them to leave their employment.

The group discussed the lack of a job seeking pool at this time and how difficult it is to find people who can pass a drug test. Executive Director Mayforth confirmed that it is difficult as unemployment has dropped. One of the topics of discussion at ESPRI meetings has been the pool of candidates that have criminal histories. Executive Director Mayforth has been working with the NYSDOL to have the person in charge of the Jobs for Success (a program to promote the hiring of those with criminal backgrounds) come to Watertown and present a program. There are many people on the ESPRI committee interested in this conversation.

After reviewing the resolutions, Executive Director Mayforth discussed the Firewall issue concerning the One-Stop Operator and the One-Stop provider provision of WIOA and how this was separated in the new legislation. It was recommended by our oversight monitor that we have two committees to oversee the functions. The committee to oversee the provider will be Mike Schantz & Matt Cooper; and the operator committee will be John O'Driscoll and Mike Britt. We will ask for other volunteers. The board will welcome Dr. Ty Stone, President of JCC, to replace retired former JCC President, Carole McCoy.

Upcoming events for the area include the Job Fair on Tuesday, September 19, and the program being provided through a grant by the Batelle Corporation on the Skills Gap.