

Board Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2024 at 8:00 am
Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown

Welcome/Call to Order: Secretary Rob Aiken welcomed Board Members at 8:01 am. Quorum was established.

Privilege of the Floor: There was none.

Guest Speaker: Craig McNamara, Transition Services Manager ~ Fort Drum TAP (Transition Assistance Program)

Mr. McNamara explained the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) in detail and expressed that his team works with many other teams both on and off post. Some of those partnerships include: Education Services, CSP, VA Resources, NYSDOL Employment Navigator Partnership Program, etc.).

He next explained the 1/3 rule for transitioning soldiers:

- 1/3 stay local (kids in school, spouse employment, etc.)
- 1/3 will return to their home of record
- 1/3 will go where opportunities take them

Further discussion ensued regarding enticing transitioning soldiers to stay in this area. The main question from this discussion was, what is the area missing that would keep transitioning individuals here? The answer is that we are not missing anything we would want in the area.

Mr. McNamara discussed current programs aimed at growing NY's workforce:

- Next Move NY – A bold new initiative to grow New York's workforce and create the most robust transitioning soldier and spouse retention pipeline in the country.
- Drum Country, NY – A multi-sector economic and workforce development partnership created to help prospective Drum Country employers access the workers, resources, and incentives needed to make our location their best asset.

Approval of Minutes:

- Secretary Aiken asked for a motion to approve the September 19, 2024 Board Meeting minutes. Ms. Dwyer made the motion. Secretary Aiken next asked for corrections or discussion. There were none. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Castillo and approved unanimously.
- Secretary Aiken next asked for a motion to approve the December 6, 2024 Executive Board Meeting minutes. Vice Chair Castillo made the motion. Secretary Aiken next asked for corrections or discussion. There were none. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weir and approved unanimously.

Correspondence: There was none.

One-Stop Operator Report: Ms. Munson shared that customer services are back to pre-pandemic numbers. The majority of in-person customer interactions in the building continue to be unemployment insurance related. Youth services are growing year-round now.

She next stated that the September 2024 customer and business surveys were mostly positive. The only negative survey was a complaint against DSS-related policies, which we have no control over. There were no actionable items for this quarter, but quite a bit of praise for our staff members in both counties.

The quarterly required Lewis County visit was held on August 30, 2024. Ms. Munson's quarterly desk review was of the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs.

The One-Stop Partners' Meeting was held on September 11, 2024. The meeting focused on how the employee shortage is impacting our businesses and community organizations. The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2024 at 10:00 am.

Executive Director's Report/Financial Report: A Stronger Workforce for America (ASWA) finalization is still pending. As written, it will change our funding requirements to spend at least 50% of funds on customer training. Director Mayforth explained that we are already on track with this potential requirement, so there should be minimal issues with enacting the new legislation if it passes.

Director Mayforth next discussed that training requests are down due to unemployment being so low. Individuals seeking work are transitioning easily without needing additional trainings. Minimum wage will increase to \$15.50 on January 1, 2025. This will hurt our non-profit organizations. She next shared that with the recent hiring of Jayda Visitacion in the Skills for Success program, we are fully staffed!

New Business:

- Resolution: 24-05: Approval of Membership Renewal to the Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce
Secretary Aiken asked for a motion of approval. Vice Chair Pettit made that motion. He next asked for questions or concerns. There were none. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prasuhn and approved unanimously

Upcoming Events:

- January 29, 2025 at 8:30 am: WorkPlace Forum ~ Recovery Ready Workplaces: Providing Support to Those in Recovery (Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Classroom A/B)

Roundtable Discussion: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Next Meeting: March 20, 2025 at 8:00 am (breakfast at 7:30) ~ Location TBD

Adjournment: Ms. LaVallee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dwyer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 am.

WDB Attendance:

Aiken, Rob
Anderson, George
Castillo, Rod
Dupee, Dan
Dwyer, Amy
Flint, Travis
LaVallee, Marybeth
Mayforth, Cheryl
Murray, Lynn
Pettit, Jody
Prasuhn, Mark

Thompson, James
Weir, Marshall

Others in Attendance:

Garno, Anne
Gratch, Nicholas
Hennessey, Sean
McNamara, Craig
Munson, Angel
Reis, Julie