

Board Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2025, at 8:30 am

Lewis County Department of Social Services, Lowville

Welcome/Call to Order: Chairman Matt Cooper welcomed Board Members at 8:31 am. Quorum was not achieved.

Privilege of the Floor: There was none.

Guest Speaker: Dawn Cole, President and Chief Executive Office, United Way of Northern New York

Presentation by Dawn Cole, United Way of Northern New York: Ms. Cole provided an updated report on ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed):

- The ALICE population keeps the economy running but does not have enough income to save money for emergencies.
- Ms. Cole highlighted data from Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties
- She also informed the Board about supportive services including:
 - The 2-1-1 referral network.
 - United Way’s ALICE assistance and coaching services.
 - “Getting Ahead in the Workplace” curriculum launching in August.
- Client stories and examples of supports offered including financial coaching and housing assistance were also shared.

Approval of Minutes: Due to not having a quorum, Minutes of the Board Meeting on March 20, 2025, and Executive Board Meeting on June 6, 2025, will be voted on at our next meeting in September 2025.

Correspondence: There was none.

One-Stop Operator Report: Ms. Munson delivered the One-Stop Operator’s quarterly report covering January through March. She reported increased customer traffic in Jefferson and Lewis Counties, largely due to recent business closures and seasonal layoffs. Updates were provided on classroom and on-the-job training, youth services, employer engagement, and satisfaction surveys. Ms. Munson noted a significant rise in classroom training participation and acknowledged challenges with youth placement in on-the-job training.

Executive Director’s Report/Financial Report: Director Mayforth provided the program and financial update, reporting that the organization is on track to meet expenditure goals and is now eligible for incentive funds. She reviewed budget projections, noting a 10% funding cut for the upcoming program year that will be offset by the incentive funds. Director Mayforth also addressed ongoing threats to key funding sources such as Perkins grants and highlighted the importance of community contributions, which continue to support major events such as WorkPlace Forums, Career Jam and job fairs. Director Mayforth shared her concern with Federal policy changes and proposed reductions to SNAP, healthcare, and workforce training funds. Noted high youth applications and

qualification for the Summer Youth Program.

New Business: Resolutions were tabled until the next meeting on September 18, 2025, due to lack of a quorum. The Executive Board Members will meet in the meantime to act upon the resolutions, and they will be ratified by the full board in September.

Upcoming Events:

July 7, 2025 - SYEP Camp Day

July 16, 2025 – OFA Picnic with SYEP

August 14, 2025 – Youth in Government Employment Day

August 15, 2025 – SYEP Picnic

Roundtable Discussion: The group discussed the current workforce and economic challenges. Construction and solar work have slowed, leaving many newly trained workers without jobs and limited support. Fort Drum related work remains minimal with hiring freezes and layoffs impacting local employers. A new initiative offers free community college tuition for adults aged 25–55 that do not already have a degree, though concerns were raised about student commitment and realistic job expectations. JCC is updating its nursing program to allow LPN certification after the first year and BOCES is introducing an HVAC program to address local demand. However, JCC has discontinued its tourism and hospitality program due to budget issues and enrollment changes.

Next Meeting: September 18, 2025, at 8:00 am (breakfast at 7:30) ~ Location TBD

Adjournment: Mr. Prasuhn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Flint seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 am.

WDB Attendance:

Aiken, Rob

Carlisto, Don

Cooper, Matt

Davis, Britany

Flint, Travis

Keruski, John

Marks, Shellie

Mayforth, Cheryl

Patrick, Shena

Prasuhn, Mark

Others in Attendance:

Cole, Dawn

Doney, Michelle

Garno, Anne

Hennessey, Sean

Herzner, Lisa

Jones, Jenny

Munson, Ange

Smith, Nana