

Board Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2022 8:00 am

Hilton Garden Inn

Watertown, NY

Welcome/Call to Order: Chairman Cooper welcomed the Board Members and called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Privilege of the Floor: There was none.

Presentation: Melinda Mack, Executive Director of NYATEP, presented the State of the Workforce 2021 to the board. After the presentation concluded the floor was opened for questions and discussion.

Highlights from the discussion included:

- How unemployment is calculated
- Where do trade programs fall in the education section
- Does Fort Drum count in area unemployment numbers, which active duty military do not
- There is a push to allow public assistance recipients to continue receiving benefits for 6 months after they start employment. This would allow recipients to actually get their feet under them before losing all benefits.

Approval of Minutes:

- Chairman Cooper asked for corrections or discussion of the minutes for the December 16, 2021 Board Meeting. There were none. Chairman Cooper next asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Stehlin made that motion. Mr. Castillo seconded. All were in favor.
- Chairman Cooper asked for corrections or discussion of the minutes for the February 24, 2022 Executive Board Meeting. There were none. Chairman Cooper next asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Pettit made that motion. Mr. Todd seconded. All were in favor.

Correspondence: Executive Director Mayforth stated that no correspondence had been received.

One-Stop Operator Report: Ms. Munson reported on Short-Term Prevocational Training. This is a new service for us but one that we can see us offering more of. STPV is for stand alone certificates or certifications costing under \$500.00. The seven shown were for basic computer training that JCC provided at the WorkPlace office. The second statistic was for non-staff entered job orders, which is at the bottom on the graph that was provided. These numbers include any business that enters their own job orders on the NYS Job bank or has set up for DOL to pull their job orders directly from their website.

Ms. Munson also stated the WorkPlace is back to offering open interviews and information sessions at both offices. Unfortunately, the numbers are not great, but the businesses have been very happy just to have the opportunity to get back into our offices.

The Job Club hires for the quarter were trending fairly close to normal. Pre-pandemic, we would typically see about 33-35% of our job club customers hired each month. Per the highlights section of the report, there is data on the customer and business satisfaction surveys. They are held once a quarter for approximately two weeks. As per the usual, most of our customers were either very satisfied or satisfied with the services they received.

There have been a couple of success stories to report this quarter. First, is a customer who started with us in the youth program in 2014. He has had a bit of a rough time finding his career but has now started with the post office. The second is a long-time customer who landed a position with HP Hood and kept bringing people back to the office during their open interviews. Of the four people he brought over to interview, HP Hood ended up hiring three of them on the spot.

Director's Report/Financial Report:

Executive Director Mayforth discussed funding with spending 80% percent by June 30th. We are able to transfer up to 100% of funding from Dislocated Worker into the Adult funding stream. This is done at the end of the program year. We serve more adults than dislocated workers. Discussed NYAB closure with 84 employees being DW. All are Trade Act eligible. The NYAP job fair was a success on March 2, 2022. Layoffs of those 84 employees begin on April 1, 2022.

Executive Director Mayforth informed the board that people are coming into The WorkPlace for UI and ID.me problems. Phone's are one problem people are having about ID.me with their phones having to be less than two years old and having to be a smart phone. NYS DOL is not back in the office yet. State is still doing phone interviews. The WorkPlace staff is happy to help with the issues, but would like more people to come in for open recruitments.

Executive Director Mayforth reviewed labor market data for Jefferson and Lewis county. Looking for employees that have been employed with the same company for at least two years. On average in Jefferson county we are 2% lower than last year. This is based on January 2022 numbers. New initiative going on and pushing the state to give credit for transitioning soldiers. Making progress on this initiative. Informed the board about 50% of unemployed are collecting unemployment. Labor force has been declining for at least the last three years. January finally saw a little better outcome. Seven more years of baby boomers, which ends around 2029. Stated 11,000 people per day are turning 65 in the USA.

Executive Director Mayforth discussed the labor pool progression.

Executive Director Mayforth praised the Sackets Harbor success story about Nick that came through our youth program.

Executive Director Mayforth reviewed the upcoming events for The WorkPlace. First is the Spring job Fair at the Ramada Inn on March 31, 2022. Second is Career Jam at the Watertown Municipal Arena, Agricultural Building, and surrounding parking lots. This event will take place on May 26, 2022.

Executive Director Mayforth Congratulated Mr. Anthony Hayden on retirement. Mr. Hayden introduced Mr. Konstantin Sikhaou to the WDB Board. Mr. Sikhaou will be taking his place.

New Business:

Approved 6/10/22

- Resolution 21-09 Approval of One-Stop Operator and One-Stop Provider Firewall Procedures
Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion of approval.
Motion: Ms. Pettit
Second: Ms. Stefanini
Approved: Unanimously
- Resolution 21-10 Amendment of Authorizing Use of Perkins Grant Funds for PY21
Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion of approval.
Motion: Mr. Stehlin
Second: Mr. Castillo
Approved: Unanimously
- Resolution 21-11 Approval of Youth Services Providers
Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion of approval.
Motion: Mr. O'Driscoll
Second: Ms. Stefanini
Approved: Unanimously
- Resolution 21-12 Approval of EO Policy
Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion of approval.
Motion: Mr. Stehlin
Second: Mr. O'Driscoll
Approved: Unanimously
- Resolution 21-13 Amendment of Local Definition of Requires Additional Assistance Barriers for In-School and Out-of-School Youth
Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion of approval.
Motion: Ms. Pettit
Second: Ms. Pietroski
Approved: Unanimously

Roundtable Discussion:

Secretary O'Driscoll discussed federal regulation changes and a 432 page document about quality training and more productivity. The Unions are 17-22 % more efficient and productive. With added productivity and higher wages we have more quality work. He also discussed the Davis-Bacon Act and that housing on Fort Drum is now covered under that act.

Ms. Stone stated JCC is part of the DRI project and is opening an entrepreneurial center in downtown Watertown in the Fall of 2023. Also, The nursing program will grow by 24 students this year. Stated internships are very important to JCC. If businesses have internships available they have students wanting to intern.

Mr. Wessner provided information on the childcare program cohort and adding staff facilities as well for child care. Grants up to \$20,000.

Mr. Prasuhn stated the GPS for Success website has been updated and new content has been added with a strong focus on the 16 career clusters and providing information. Resume and interview skills being added to the website as well.

Ms. Hetzner stated internships are a big focus in Lewis County. They are trying to provide focus internships to keep people in the area.

Next Meeting: June 16, 2022 8:30 am
Tug Hill Winery
4051 Yancey Road
Lowville, NY

Adjournment: Chairman Cooper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pettit made that motion. Ms. Stefanini Seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 am.

Attendance:

Robert Aiken
George Anderson
Rod Castillo
Matthew Cooper
Brittany Davis (via zoom)
Robert Hagemann
Shellie Marks
Cheryl Mayforth
Lynn Murray
John O'Driscoll
Jody Pettit
Lynn Pietroski
Mark Prasuhn
Karla Stefanini
Dale Stehlin
Ty Stone
Stephen Todd
Joseph Wessner
Dave Zembiec

Others in Attendance:

Brittaney Cole
Anthony Hayden
Marshall Wier
Lisa Hetzner
Angel Munson
Konstantin Sikhaou