



Workforce Development Board

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Board Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2024 at 8:30 am

Lewis County DSS, 5274 Outer Stowe St, Lowville, NY 13367

Welcome/Call to Order: Chairman Matt Cooper welcomed Board Members at 8:30 am. It was agreed to change the order of the agenda to accommodate both Board member's schedules and the guest speakers.

Privilege of the Floor: There was none.

Approval of Minutes:

- Chairman Cooper asked for a motion to approve the March 21, 2024, Board Meeting minutes. Mr. Hagemann made that motion. Chairman Cooper next asked for corrections or discussion. There were none. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aiken and approved unanimously.
- Chairman Cooper asked for the motion to approve the June 14, 2024, Executive Board Meeting minutes. Mr. Aiken made the motion. Chairman Cooper next asked for corrections or discussion. There were none. The motion was seconded by Ms. Petit and approved unanimously.

Correspondence: There was none.

New Business: Director Mayforth congratulated Mr. Hagemann on his upcoming retirement. Director Mayforth also gave an update on the building purchase. The elevator is still not working, the estimate to fix it is very high, and the bank has asked for a second opinion. This is holding up the final purchase of the building, hopefully it will be resolved soon. Mr. Hagemann stated, Part I - own, Part II – remodel. Mr. Aiken addressed Ms. Garno, our new Assistant Director, to ensure that everyone knew who she was. Mr. Aiken also pointed out that there was a guest, Mr. Jay Matteson, Deputy CEO at JCED and Jefferson County Ag Coordinator.

- Resolution: 23-08 – Approval of Membership Renewal to NYATEP
Chairman Cooper asked for a motion of Approval. Mr. Hagemann made the motion. Chairman Cooper asked for questions or comments. There were none. The motion was seconded by Ms. Davis and approved unanimously.
- Resolution: 23-09 – Approval of Membership Renewal to NAWB
Chairman Cooper asked for a motion of Approval. Mr. Aiken made the motion. Chairman Cooper asked for questions or comments. There were none. The motion was seconded by Mr. Todd and approved unanimously.
- Resolution: 23-10 – Approval of Program Year 2024 Meeting Dates
Chairman Cooper asked for a motion of Approval. Mr. Hagemann made the motion. Chairman Cooper asked for questions or comments. There were none. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pettit and approved unanimously.

- Resolution: 23-11 – Nomination/Election of Officers for Program Year 2024
Chairman Cooper asked for a motion of Approval. Mr. Hagemann made the motion. Chairman Cooper asked for questions or comments. There were none. The motion was seconded by Mr. Todd and approved unanimously.
- Resolution: 23-12 – Approval of Program Year 2024 Budget
Director Mayforth stated we received notification that we are taking a 12.3% cut due in part to low statewide unemployment rates. For the last four years, we have been granted a waiver due to not meeting 80% of the spending threshold. This carry-over will compensate for the loss. Our cut is minimal compared to some other programs. Chairman Cooper asked for a motion of Approval. Mr. Kilmer made the motion. Chairman Cooper asked for questions or comments. There were none. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aiken and approved unanimously.
- Resolution: 23-13 – Approval of Youth Services for Program Year 2024
Director Mayforth explained this must be done annually. Chairman Cooper asked for a motion of Approval. Mr. Todd made the motion. Chairman Cooper asked for questions or comments. There were none. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dwyer and approved unanimously.
- Resolution: 23-14 – Renewal of the One-Stop Operator Agreement
Chairman Cooper asked for a motion of Approval. Ms. Pettit made the motion. Chairman Cooper asked for questions or comments. There were none. The motion was seconded by Mr. Killmer and approved unanimously.
- Resolution: 23-15 – Revision of Self-Sufficiency Wage
Director Mayforth explained that this is a strategy to serve more people and that raising the wage to \$25 moved us in line with St. Lawrence County. Chairman Cooper states this raises the ceiling on employed customers we can help with classroom training programs. It was suggested to continue increasing the self-sufficiency wage by a smaller amount (\$1 per year) moving forward. Ms. Garno stated that the calculations are in the PowerPoint slides that will be made available to Board members. Chairman Cooper asked for a motion of Approval. Ms. Pettit made the motion. Chairman Cooper asked for questions or comments. There were none. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hagemann and approved unanimously.

Guest Speakers:

Dana Politis, Associate Commissioner for Workforce Development, NYS DOL

Pamela Miller, Bureau Manager, Career Services and Central Support, NYS DOL

Laurie Thomson, Bureau Manager, Business Engagement and Strategy, NYS DOL

Presentation:

First, Dana Politis discussed some of the broader goals and programs of the department including statewide workforce goals and the role of the Office of New Americans, ensuring that NY residents and new Americans know employment processes and their rights, and the importance of matching skills and interests to jobs and supportive services. There are a few different classes of people coming to NY state right now. Refugees mainly are coming from Ukraine and Afghanistan. They may be granted something called Humanitarian Parole and be fast-tracked, so they are able to legally work right away. There are also folks who get Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and can participate in the Migrant Relocation Assistance program which provides up to one year of housing – mainly in hotels. Many TPS people are from Haiti, Nepal, and Venezuela. Other people can claim asylum at the border and can go through a legal process that can allow them to stay because their life may be threatened if they return

home - many of these people are from Central America. It can be a long process for them to go through asylum and get documentation so they can work legally. Right now, 40% of people coming to NY in these programs are Venezuelan. Five counties and NYC are the primary locations for these people to be sent - locally Monroe (Rochester) and Erie (Buffalo) are closest. The rest are near the city. There is a collaborative effort between the Department of State, Dept of Labor, Public Health, and other entities like school districts, mental health, literacy and language programs, etc. Housing is the biggest issue that communities face when they want to bring people to the area as potential employees. Language and transportation also presents a barrier. 200,000 people have come through New York City with 66,000 still in shelter. Board members had many questions regarding who pays the fees for filing for protected status, how housing is arranged and paid for, and how long it takes for temporary status to be granted. Currently, NYC is paying for paperwork and assisting with housing in the city. It typically takes 18 months for temporary status to be granted and people can reapply if needed. People who apply for Temporary Protected Status can apply for work while they wait for their status to be determined. Asylum seekers typically apply and then wait about five months for work authorization.

Next, Laurie Thomson let us know that her department assists businesses across the state with regional outreach, job postings, career fairs, understanding available tax credits, on-the-job training programs, and general labor market information.

Lastly, Pamela Miller discussed that her department employs a holistic customer service model to serve unemployed, underemployed, and youth workers through free services including: assessments, language interpretations, job search/coaching, resume/job applications, 1:1 employment counseling, employee workshops (onsite and virtual), and job fairs (onsite and virtual).

One-Stop Operator Report: Due to time constraints, the report was brief, but Ms. Munson noted that county email addresses will be changing, there is the possibility of hiring an outreach coordinator, and there is a need to boost public awareness of the full range of services offered.

Executive Director's Report/Financial Report: Director Mayforth

We have four new hires in various positions and one staff member will be leaving in early August due to a PCS move with her husband.

WIOA reauthorization – has a new name - A Stronger Workforce for America (ASWA), there are significant revisions to the program, details and additional information is available in the slide show located on the website.

Unemployment Data – due to how unemployment is calculated it looks like the number is up, but we are extremely low in comparison to previous years. Labor participation is better than pre-pandemic, female employment is down due to the lack of available childcare – 4:1 child wait, people retiring earlier and fewer people age 55+ are in the labor market, most people that become unemployed are able to quickly secure a new job on their own without visiting the WorkPlace.

This past spring's events included the Job Fair – quality of job seekers has increased, and the WorkPlace Forum, the subject was childcare, the Clean Energy Conference, and Career Jam 2024 – 20 people attended from Albany with the Commissioner, the After Action Review is scheduled for Monday, June 24, 2024, one suggestion from schools and vendors was to increase the time youth are on site.

Self-sufficiency wage was discussed.

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report was discussed.

Upcoming Events:

- September 2024: Job Fair
- October 2024: WorkPlace Forum -- Housing

Roundtable Discussion:

- Teacher Ambassador Program
- New egg hatchery (CWT) – will produce one million eggs per week
- County busing vs city jurisdiction – How can we get employees to work?
- Making arrangements for the December WDB Meeting which will be on December 19th at the Hilton
- Fall Job Fair date is September 25th at the Hilton

Next Meeting: September 19, 2024 – Location TBD

Adjournment: Mr. Aiken made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pettit seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 am.

WDB Attendance:

Aiken, Rob
Anderson, George
Cooper, Matthew
Davis, Brittany
Dupee, Dan
Dwyer, Amy
Garno, Anne
Gulliver, Daren
Hagemann, Robert
Keruski, John
Killmer, Robert

Marks, Shellie
Mayforth, Cheryl
Murray, Lynn
Patrick, Shena
Pettit, Jody
Todd, Stephen

Others in Attendance:

Matteson, Jay
Munson, Angel
Reis, Julie