

Broome Tioga Workforce NY WDB Meeting

December 18 , 2020

8:30 am

WDB meeting held by Zoom pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Orders to minimize physical gatherings due to COVID-19.

Called in **WDB Members Present:** Len Basso, Allen Buyck, David Goodness, Justin Marchuska, Jenna Rosenberg, Ken Smith, Frank Stento, LeeAnn Tinney

Excused: Maureen Abbott, Michael Atchie, Tom Crowley, Michael Dundon, Allyn W. Jones, Barbara Kane, Jack Lance, Jonathan Layish, Teresa Renna, Paula Perna, Chris Powers, Brian Scanlon, Karen Shelp, Shawn Yetter

Called in - staff: Robert Murphy (RCM – Host, BTWF-Broome), Jennifer Gregory (Southern Tier 8) T. Hanson (Tioga CCE), Erin Monroe (BTWF-Broome), Dot Richter (Southern Tier 8), Beth Roberts (Broome CCE), Holly Tracy (Broome CCE), JP Tschang (BTWF-Broome), Melissa Watkins (Tioga CCE)

Handouts emailed: Agenda, WDB 9/25/20 meeting minutes, Executive Committee 12/11/20 draft meeting minutes, One Stop Operator Report Dec 2020, Youth contracts fiscal status as at 11/30/20, Broome CCE Career Bound December 2020 report, Revised 2020 Priority of Service – Adult Policy, Final draft Youth Additional Assistance Policy, Binghamton MSA report Oct and Nov 2020, WANTO flier and brochure.

- I. Len Basso, Vice Chair, standing in for Karen Shelp as Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:37 am.
- II. Introduction of Members and Guests:
Board members and guest lists were read out and those present noted. It was noted that there was no quorum.
- III. Review and approval of 9/25/20 meeting minutes:
Minutes were reviewed but there being no quorum, no vote was taken. Tabled to be considered at next meeting.
- IV. New Business
 - a. Update on COVID 19:
 - RCM reported that Broome Career Center is authorized to operate at 50% capacity according to Broome County Executive's directive.
 - The Center follows proper sanitizing procedures with masks and social distancing. There have been no COVID cases in Broome Office of Employment and Training (OET).
 - DSS which never shut down did have a positive case. The person was quarantined and there was no spread.
 - Tioga Career Center also never closed. Sheri McCall has been meeting with Tioga CCE staff regularly to discuss any challenges that crop up.
 - The Career Centers have been doing virtual job fairs and Broome carried out two drive-through job fairs.
 - There is a job fair at the Broome Career Center planned for 12/30/20 and there are already 30 employers on the list with a waiting list.

- OET welcomed 3 new employees to fill vacant positions in 2020: Erin Monroe, Sumita Banerjee and Colin Frank.
- b. Approve renewal of One Stop Operator Contract for \$5,000 from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.
- This contract is with Southern Tier 8.
 - The contract was approved for renewal by the Exec. Committee at their meeting on 12/11/20.
 - As there was no quorum, no vote was taken. Tabled to be considered at the next meeting.
- c. Report from One Stop Operator – Southern Tier 8
- RCM noted that the COVID pandemic has placed new challenges on the sub-recipients in 2020.
 - Welfare to Work and DSS used to provide participants for the youth programs but this pipeline seems to have dried up recently.
 - Broome CCE is talking with the City of Binghamton drug court and Probation Office.
 - Tioga CCE continues to do a great job with the number of participants.
 - Although the area has been adversely affected by the pandemic, State and Federal goals for performance remain the same.
 - Jen Gregory from Southern Tier 8 thanked sub-recipients Tioga and Broome CCE, Dot Richter and JP Tschang for assisting in the One Stop Operator report preparation.
 - Jen reported that the sub-recipients were still reaching goals which were in line with expectations.
- d. Youth Program Status:
- Broome CCE-
 - Holly Tracy reported Broome CCE's activities for the quarter.
 - Holly shared that 2020 has been particularly challenging in terms of trying to get youth in either virtually or in-person.
 - The drug court has had to use virtual appointments; a lot of individuals reverted back to using drugs.
 - Probation Office has 2- 3 officers and there have not been many referrals.
 - Mental Health referrals have needed a lot of extra care and guidance from counselors. There are problems with job retention for the participants.
 - A pro-active approach has been taken by Broome CCE through the following:
 - 1) Bi-weekly meetings are held for the community to learn more about the programs at Career Bound. Basket giveaways from Facebook posts promote outreach efforts.
 - 2) Collaboration with Tiger Venture from the Union Endicott school district for virtual Zoom recruitments. About 20 organizations are connected through this.
 - 9 youth have been enrolled in PY20 with 3 new potentials next week.
 - 3 youth (from enrolled and carry over) applied for post-secondary education, there seems to be some re-thinking about the attractiveness of post-secondary education with the onset of the pandemic.
 - 6 youth have been employed in healthcare, retail and food industries.
 - Any recruitment ideas/strategies are welcomed from the Board members and businesses.
 - Tioga CCE-
 - Melissa Watkins reported Tioga CCE's activities for the quarter.
 - 11 youth were enrolled so far for PY20 with 2 pending and 9 carried forward from PY19.
 - 8 were enrolled in TASC with 3 completions through waivers.
 - Youth are looking for jobs and assistance with interview skills and getting into the workforce.
 - Both In-person and virtual connections are being done.
 - Partner agencies and libraries are utilized to reach out to youth and help connect with resources.

- To observe social distancing, a 23" TV was purchased to be hooked up with a computer to facilitate one on one work.
- Trainings done include OSHA 10, C.N.A., security, National Retail Federation (NRF), driver licenses and permits.
- 2 individuals are pursuing post-secondary education.
- One young man worked part-time in a farm and completed his High School Equivalency through the waiver process. He now has a full-time job installing garage doors. WIOA was used to fund his OSHA 10 certification and tools.
- A very timely technology grant was obtained by Tioga CCE through the Community Block grant route.
- This grant will assist youth in their online job search, interviews and remote-learning activities.
- Working with the Community Foundation for Southern Tier and Floyd Hooker Foundation, this grant pays for chrome books to be obtained for youth who have completed the WIOA youth program. The amount requested in the initial submission was doubled upon award of the grant.
- RCM noted that other WIBs have been trying to get funding for tablets in this technological and remote working age; Tioga CCE is highly commended for being able to find a solution to this problem.

e. Youth Program fiscal status as at 11/30/20:

- JP Tschang summarized the handout given on the youth sub-recipients' fiscal claims as at 11/30/20.
- Tioga CCE claimed up to September 2020 and Broome CCE up to October 2020. Underclaims were at 20% (last quarter 22% underclaimed) and 10 % (last quarter 8% underclaimed) respectively. Youth Work Experience allocations were underclaimed by 9% for Tioga CCE (last quarter 11%) and underclaimed by 5% for Broome CCE (last quarter overclaimed by 5%).
- Underclaims were due to remote working during this time and also not as many participants claimed for incentive payments and supportive services.

f. Policy updates:

i. Priority of Service in Adult Program:

- RCM noted that this update to the current policy was to accommodate adults who are basic skills deficient per State's requirement.
- Basic skills deficiency definition is not being able to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speak.
- As there was no quorum, no vote was taken. Tabled to be considered at next meeting.

ii. Youth Additional Assistance definition:

- RCM stated that low-income eligibility has been established for Out of School and In School Youth (OSY and ISY) for youth additional assistance criterion.
- WIOA has removed the low-income eligibility requirement making it easier for youth to qualify under the other barriers.
- This revision to the Youth Additional Assistance definition will update the Policy to state the low-income requirement for eligible youth and have a 5% cap on ISY enrolled under additional assistance criterion.
- As there was no quorum, no vote was taken. Tabled to be considered at next meeting.

g. Grants update:

- As there was no quorum, grants updates were tabled to be considered at next meeting.

V. Any other matters

a. Board members' participation -

- Len Basso thanked the Board members and guests who had made the time and effort to attend the meeting.
- David Goodness noted that by 2025 robotics and artificial intelligence will have precedence in the manufacturing sector and queried if we have a prepared skilled workforce.
- Hospitality, restaurant and healthcare businesses will pick up as well.
- Career pipelines and middle school engagement are important factors in preparing a ready workforce.
- Beth Roberts shared that CCE of Tompkins County established a pipeline for green jobs in their area with certification to be recognized by NYS DOL. However, Broome County lacks green jobs for this to be considered.
- The Ag. Program in Windsor with BOCES introduced students to animal and plant sciences with articulations agreements between parties and a pre-apprenticeship program to be undertaken.
- However, this has fallen by the wayside and the current situation is discouraging.
- Lee Ann Tinney submitted that it is important to reach across County lines and work together, mentioning Team Tioga and the Talent Taskforce as examples of vehicles to use.
- Brittany Woodburn of Tioga County would be a good person to contact.
- RCM commented that any workforce matters should be referred to and undertaken by BT Workforce for the area. Working together with other agencies, educational providers like BT BOCES and trade organizations is key.
- RCM to look into engaging more energetic participation from Board members.
- Erin Monroe of Broome Career Center volunteered to rally up support and participation from Board members for future meetings.
- Len Basso suggested a questionnaire about barriers to attending meetings, hosting hybrid meetings, a letter from Bob and/or Karen to encourage attendance and a membership committee to look into this.

b. WANTO (Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations)-

- Sheri McCall submitted handouts to draw the Board's attention to WANTO grant which promotes women's roles in apprenticeship and non-traditional occupations.
- The effort involves Alice Savino, the LWDB Executive Director for HMO WIB based in Utica.

c. Future WIB Meeting in 2021-

The following dates are the WIB meetings planned in 2021:

March 26, 2021

June 25, 2021

September 24, 2021

December 17, 2021

There being no further matters, meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.