

Broome Tioga Workforce NY WDB Meeting
June 25, 2021
11 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:** Maureen Abbott, Michael Atchie, Len Basso, Allen Buyck, David Goodness, Allyn W. Jones, Jack Lance, Jonathan Layish, Justin Marchuska, Robert Messler, Jenna Rosenberg, Karen Shelp (Chair), Frank Stento, Shawn Yetter

Excused: Tom Crowley, Michael Dundon, Barbara Kane, Chris Powers, Teresa Rennia, Paula Perna, Brian Scanlon, Ken Smith, LeeAnn Tinney

Called in – staff and guests: Robert Murphy (RCM – Host, BTWF-Broome), T. Hanson (Tioga CCE), Christian Harris (NYS DOL), Holly Tracy (Broome CCE), JP Tschang (BTWF-Broome), Faith Vavra (Southern Tier 8), Melissa Watkins (Tioga CCE), Lisa Weston-Bialy (Tioga CCE), Brittany Woodburn (Tioga County Eco. Development & Planning) attended as a representative for Lee Ann Tinney

Handouts emailed: Agenda, WDB 09/25/20 meeting minutes, WDB 03/26/21 meeting minutes, Executive Committee 6/18/21 draft meeting minutes, One Stop Operator Report March 2021, Broome CCE Career Bound May 2021 Report, Youth contracts fiscal status as at 5/31/21, Budget PY 2021 and Broome Tioga Allocation, Priority Occupations List Southern Tier, On the Job Training Policy proposed change, Binghamton MSA Labor Market Profile May 2021.

- I. Karen Shelp as Chair called the meeting to order at 11:07 am.
- II. Introduction of Members and Guests:
Board members and guest lists were read out with thanks extended to attendees.
- III. Review and approval of previous WDB meeting minutes:
Minutes for the meeting held on September 25, 2020 were reviewed.
Minutes for the meeting held on March 26, 2021 were reviewed. Motion to accept WDB meeting minutes. Al Buyck 1st, Len Basso 2nd. All in favor.
- IV. New Business
 - a. Notification of renewal of Board members’ terms:
The following Board members’ terms were renewed from 6/30/21 to 6/30/24. The Board members and new terms are:

Board Member	Term expiring
Maureen Abbott	6/30/2024
Lee Ann Tinney	6/30/2024

Broome County Board members with expiring terms will be renewed by the next WDB meeting on September 24, 2021

- b. Youth Program status agenda item was moved up as it was deemed relevant to hear the sub-recipients' reports before the One Stop Operator's summary report.
- Broome CCE –
 - Holly Tracy shared Broome CCE's activities. Broome CCE was hard hit by COVID shutdowns and a slowdown in referrals from other agencies. However, participants are increasing recently as more referrals come in. Currently 29 youth are enrolled for PY20 with 4 undergoing eligibility assessments. 60 youth being enrolled for PY 20 was the goal.
 - 17 youth are employed with 5 OJTs (2 did not complete). Employers include Lowe's, Door Dash, Olum's, Buckingham, Foland Lumber, Willow Run and Village of Johnson City. 17 youth undertook credential attainment.
 - Success stories included a youth who secured employment over 6 months ago and recently purchased a new vehicle, moving into her first apartment with her son. Another youth passed the TASC exam in May. A third participant is enrolled in New York Beauty and Barber Academy and making connections to ensure long-term success at this venture.
 - Tioga CCE –
 - T Hanson spoke on Tioga CCE's close collaboration with the Tioga County DSS which includes office space in the Tioga Career Center. Team members who include Melissa Watkins and Lisa Weston-Bialy have worked hard one-on-one with participants and go the extra mile to ensure their success.
 - 25 youth have been enrolled for PY20, meeting the targeted enrolment for the project year. 2 youth were enrolled in work experience with one being offered a job after the training. Youth are enrolled in Phlebotomy, CDL A and CDL B training.
 - Success stories include a high school dropout who found a part-time job through Tioga CCE while undertaking remote Phlebotomy classes which is her career goal. Another unemployed youth obtained work with the Town of Owego and trained successfully for a CDL B license.
 - Tioga CCE collaborates with the Tioga Economic Development Board, Tioga Opportunities as well as the school districts.
 - An exciting development shared by T is the purchase of 107 acres of farm property in Candor by Cornell Cooperative Extension opening up agricultural opportunities like internships, apprenticeships and small engine repair.
 - Lisa Weston-Bialy was highly commended for her service and expertise in the program. Lisa responded with similar praise for her colleague in Broome CCE, Holly Tracy, and looked forward to continued collaboration.
- c. Report from One Stop Operator – Southern Tier 8
- Faith Vavra commented on the Southern Tier 8 One Stop Operator report which summarized the sub-recipients' activities and youth participant numbers for the last quarter. Broome CCE and Tioga CCE were doing their best in the circumstances.

- d. Youth program fiscal status @ 5/31/21:
- JP Tschang referred to the handout on fiscal status for Broome and Tioga CCE. Both sub-recipients were up to date with their claims at date of reporting, having claimed up to May 2021.
 - Broome CCE at \$254,729.34 was 5 % underclaimed this quarter compared to 15% underclaimed last quarter. Tioga CCE at \$193,282.84 was 8% underclaimed compared to 9% underclaimed last quarter.
 - For work experience, Tioga CCE at \$42,615.26 was 1% over-claimed for year to date, and Broome CCE at \$47,385.57 was 12% underclaimed.
- e. Approve budget for PY21: \$ 1,733,736 in total (attachment given), PY21 Adult \$ 514,045.80, PY21 DW \$462,910.50, PY 21 Youth \$ 583,406.10, PY 21 Admin \$ 173,373.60:
- The budget for PY 21 was presented to the Board. This PY's budget of \$1,733,736 is about \$64k increase from PY20's budget mainly captured in the Dislocated Worker program. Motion to approve PY21 budget for \$ 1,733,736 in total, PY21 Adult \$ 514,045.80, PY21 DW \$462,910.50, PY 21 Youth \$ 583,406.10, PY 21 Admin \$ 173,373.60. Len Basso, 1st, Al Buyck, 2nd. All in favor.
- f. Approval of contracts for PY21 –
- i. Approve Tioga County contract for PY21 for \$268,303.88: PY 21 Adult \$87,314.88, DW \$93,051.65, Youth \$57,373.07, Admin \$30,564.28. Motion to approve Tioga County contract for PY21 for \$268,303.88: PY 21 Adult \$87,314.88, DW \$93,051.65, Youth \$57,373.07, Admin \$30,564.28. Len Basso, 1st, Maureen Abbot, 2nd. All in favor.
 - ii. Approve extension of Broome CCE contract for Broome Youth Program to June 30, 2022 and renewal amount of \$130,000 for PY21. Motion to approve extension of Broome CCE contract for Broome Youth Program to June 30, 2022 and renewal amount of \$130,000 for PY21. Mike Atchie 1st, Allyn W. Jones 2nd. All in favor.
 - iii. Approve extension of Tioga CCE contract for Tioga Youth Program to June 30, 2022 and renewal amount of \$100,000 for PY21. Motion to approve extension of Tioga CCE contract for Tioga Youth Program to June 30, 2022 and renewal amount of \$100,000 for PY21. Maureen Abbot 1st, Allyn W. Jones 2nd. All in favor.
 - iv. Approve NY Wired contract extension for amount not to exceed \$25,000 from 7/1/21 – 6/30/22 for online training services for jobseekers.
 - NY Wired is also known as Metrix. RCM explained that currently the 3 major online course providers are Metrix, Coursera and SUNY Online. Although these services offer credentialing at all levels and cater to the unemployed and under-employed, the differences lie in the degree of difficulty and eligibility to participate.
 - Metrix has starter courses open to anyone.
 - Coursera College has professors teaching courses but the program offered by DOL is open only to those who are unemployed.
 - SUNY Online is a degree-bearing program.
 - Motion to approve NY Wired contract extension for amount not to exceed \$25,000 from 7/1/21 – 6/30/22 for online training services for jobseekers. Len Basso 1st, Justin Marchuska 2nd. All in favor.

- v. Collaborative Recovery Empowerment of the Southern Tier (CREST)/INSPIRE Grant:
 - This is a \$500,000 Regional Grant of which \$75,000 is going to BTWF. Approval for contract to accept \$75,000 from Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board for the grant to work with the recovery workforce.
 - There will matching personnel expenses of \$76,000 from BT Workforce.
 - This grant focuses on employers and employees working together in wellness programs with occupational and life services, aiming to de-stigmatize substance abuse recovery.
 - Motion to approve acceptance of the CREST/INSPIRE grant of \$75,000 from Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board to focus on the recovery workforce. Al Buyck 1st, Jenna Rosenberg 2nd. All in favor.

- g. Priority Occupations List
 - Input from Board members as industry leaders was requested for the Priority Occupations List for the region which had last been reviewed in 2017. Occupations need to be reviewed for classification as high, medium or low priorities.
 - The COVID 19 pandemic has certainly impacted this list and Board members were encouraged to come to the next meeting with suggestions.
 - Collaboration with area agencies will ensure that training course provided at local institutes are aligned with demand and appropriately listed on the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL).

- h. Policy update – On the Job Training (OJT) policy
 - The current BT Workforce OJT policy required that wages for OJT participants be \$1 above minimum wage. This policy was set some 10 years ago when the minimum wage was much lower than current level of \$12.50.
 - As minimum wage increased in NYS, employers are finding it difficult to keep up with this extra \$1 per hour wage for new trainees as other employees in the same titles would need to be paid similarly. When and if the minimum wage rises to \$15, this local OJT policy will make it prohibitive for employers to sign up for OJT contracts to train new employees with help from WIOA.
 - Motion to remove the \$1 above minimum wage clause from BT Workforce’s OJT policy and align it with federal law. Len Basso 1st, Mike Atchie 2nd. All in favor.

- i. Grants update:
 - i. ER-NDWG (Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant)
 - RCM remarked that there will be modest increases in this grant of \$42, 805. Participants must be on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) to qualify.
 - ii. ARC/CFA/WDI - \$300k; CFA/WDI contract from State is finalized.
 - This grant has been signed by State and will allow more Opportunity Impact Program session to take place in advanced manufacturing and healthcare.
 - iii. CFA 8.0
 - The grant has been extended to September 30, 2021.
 - The Spring 2021 OITP session saw 17 trainees graduate and employers like BAE Systems and Samscreen competing for job seekers.
 - A summer OITP session is scheduled to run from August 2 to August 20, 2021.
 - RCM shared that the goal for the OITP program is to run 12 classes a year on a predictive schedule. With employers like Amazon and Fedex setting up operations in the

region, warehousing jobs will be in demand and the warehousing training sessions will be very much needed.

iv. CREST

- This grant was discussed earlier. Certificates in recovery like CASAC and counselor programs will be the focus.
- Outreach will be on a region-wide basis. Workforce will work with agencies like Family & Children of Tompkins County and Otsego LEAF.

V. NYSDOL Statistical Analyst Presentation

- Christian Harris from NYSDOL reviewed the unemployment rates with the Board. Unemployment was down to 4% from previous rate of 12%.
- This rate should be looked at in its proper context as it is based on phone surveys made to households and persons not looking for jobs will not be counted as unemployed. Participation issue is a problem.
- The shrinking labor force is an ongoing problem with baby boomers retiring and those with lower-paying jobs choosing not to look for work as unemployment benefits with \$300 additional assistance prove to be financially more attractive.
- Bonuses and flextime may bring more job seekers back.
- Allyn Jones shared that in his experience younger workers who were under apprenticeship programs acquired marketable skills and moved out to other areas like Colorado, Utah and Texas as they had no ties to the area and it was not a disruption for them to move.

VI. Board attendance – Sub-Committees for Career Pipeline.

- RCM shared his vision of creating career pipelines for industries grouped as follows:

1 st Group	2 nd Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Manufacturing○ Advanced Manufacturing○ Healthcare○ Warehousing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Agriculture○ IT○ Skilled Trades○ Admin

- While demand is high for careers in the first group, industries in the second group also have workforce needs. Classes will be set up soon for the agricultural sector.

VII. Youth Council

- A meeting was held recently to bring together interested parties who can work to galvanize the youth in our region.
- This Council will have convening power and include schools, BOCES, SUNY Broome, organizations with job openings and connections. There are organizations from outside the area which may duplicate the work done locally so it is important not to confuse people.
- Grant applications will be the focus for the Council.

VIII. Any other matters

a. Future WIB Meeting in 2021-

The following dates are the WIB meetings planned in 2021:

September 24, 2021

December 17, 2021

There being no further matters, motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Al Buyck 1st Len Basso 2nd. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.