

Broome Tioga Workforce NY WDB Meeting

March 24, 2023

12 noon

WDB Members:

In person attendance: Len Basso (Vice Chair), Danielle Britton, Tom Crowley, David Goodness, Jonathan Layish, Justin Marchuska, Walter Melzer, Brian Scanlon, Karen Shelp (Chair), Ken Smith, Frank Stento, Andrew Tunison, Shawn Yetter

Excused: Maureen Abbott, Michael Atchie, Shawn Atkinson, Myra J. Bobo-Pickens, Mary Hill, Allyn W. Jones, Robert Messler, Paula Perna, Chris Powers, Teresa Rennia, Rebecca Stone, LeeAnn Tinney

Staff and guests:

In person attendance: Robert Murphy (RCM – Host, BTWF-Broome), Rebecca Harris (BTWF-Broome), Preston Hertzog (BTWF – Broome), Vikki Kaufman (NYS DOL), Sean Lanning (Tioga Economic Development & Planning), Erin Monroe (BTWF – Broome), Beth Roberts (Broome CCE), Teresa Jean Staats (Tioga CCE), JP Tschang (BTWF-Broome)

Zoomed or called in: T Hanson (Tioga CCE), Christian Harris (NYS DOL)

Handouts emailed: Agenda, WDB minutes for 1/27/23 meeting, Executive Committee 3/21/23 draft meeting minutes, Broome CCE Career Bound WDB Report Mar 2023 3rd qtr. PY 22, Tioga CCE WDB Report March 2023 3rd qtr. PY22, Youth contracts fiscal status as at 2/28/23, Binghamton MSA Labor Market Profile Jan 2023, Unemployment rate rank Jan 2023.

I. Karen Shelp as Chair called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

II. Introduction of Members and Guests

RCM welcomed everyone to the meeting including new Board Member Andrew Tunison, who is the Director of Counseling from ACCES VR.

III. Review and approval of previous WDB meeting minutes:

Minutes for the meeting held on January 27, 2023 were reviewed. Motion to accept January 27, 2023 WDB meeting minutes. Len Basso 1st, David Goodness 2nd. All in favor.

IV. New Business

1) Youth Program status:

- Broome CCE
- Beth Roberts reported on Broome CCE's activities.

- 52 youths were enrolled out of the targeted 60 for PY 22, with five in the pipeline.
 - 29 individuals were currently employed locally at Willow Run, Weis, Nirchi's, Mirabito, Taco Bell, Price Chopper, Ocean State Lot Jobs, Uber, Walmart, Planet Fitness, Spectrum, Crowley Fabricating, Amazon, Wilson Dental, Binghamton Road Electric, Broome Security, Dick's Sporting Goods and many more local employers.
 - Two youths were attending SUNY Broome.
 - Seven youths were in On-The-Job training (OJT) contracts.
 - 14 youths were in vocational training, courses like CDL A, BOCES Building Maintenance, Phlebotomy, LPN, Residential Electricity and Welding.
 - Beth thanked RCM for allowing WIOA funds to be used for these training ITAs. Many youths move on to steady jobs and careers.
 - Career Bound also works closely with the Business Services unit in Broome to match job opportunities with work-ready youth.
 - Success stories include a youth employed with Spectrum obtaining a "Best Performer on the Team" award, an individual employed with Binghamton Road Electric motivated to taking BOCES Residential Electricity classes to become an electrician and a Phlebotomy student on the road to employment upon completion of her course.
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- Tioga CCE
 - T Hanson shared recent updates on Tioga CCE's activities.
 - 23 youths were already enrolled to date, well on the way to over-achieving the target enrolment for PY22 of 25 youths.
 - Ten youths were taking GED courses. One youth had an OJT contract.
 - T shared about the great success of the Twin Tiers Regional job fair held in Waverly High School in early March. Over 100 employers attended and breakout sessions were held in the school theatre for resume writing workshops.
 - Jackie Burdick and Shawn Yetter were commended for their efforts in arranging transportation from the Tioga County Career Center to Waverly.
 - Employers included Best Buy and healthcare providers.
 - Opportunity Impact Training Program (OITP) classes are currently in session in the Tioga County Career Center with employers ready to participate in the interview phase.
 - The NENY grant will fund the tuition for this.
 - The Clean Energy NEW York Fair in September will open up more opportunities for jobs in this sector.

2) Youth program fiscal status @ 2/28/23:

- JP Tschang referred to the handout detailing the claim amounts for Broome and Tioga CCE.
- Tioga CCE's claims averaged \$5 – 6k per month and they could claim up to \$10,000 per month.
- They had claimed \$47,698.04 up to Feb 2023 and were 40% underclaimed.
- Youth work experience at \$9,871.89 were 38% underclaimed.
- On the plus side, the claims have been very prompt since Theresa joined the fiscal team.
- Broome CCE had claimed up to Jan 2023 to the amount of \$84,986.29, 15% underclaimed.
- Average claim per month at \$12.5k was on target for the monthly budgeted claims as Broome CCE had a total contract of \$150,000 for PY 22.
- Youth work experience at \$10,818.70 was underclaimed by \$9,181.30 (-46%).
- Both sub-recipients were encouraged to claim more under Work Experience, JP will send out reminders on what qualifies as Youth Work Experience after the meeting.
- If the contracts are renewed at the end of the contract period on 6/30/23, any unclaimed amounts will roll over to the new project year and still be claimable for the next PY.

3) One Stop Operator Appointment:

- RCM explained that an RFP had been issued in 2022 and there were no bidders.
- Board member Len Basso had volunteered for the position at no cost for the period from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 and this had been approved by Chairperson Karen Shelp as well as the LWDB and Broome Legislature.
- Upon further discussion with NYSDOL, it was found that this arrangement was not approved.
- There was guidance issued that US DOL would require the One Stop Operator to be paid.
- NYSDOL suggested that an internal person in Workforce be appointed to be the One Stop Operator after setting up appropriate firewalls.
- There is a new position of Grant Administrator that will be filled soon at Broome County and this position may take on the One Stop Operator role. As the person will only be starting on April 3, 2023, he will be officially appointed as One Stop Operator after that date.

4) Transfer of \$100,000 from PY22 DW to PY22 Adult (correction to agenda):

- JP explained that about \$200k had been spent on OJTS and ITAs so far under the Adult program and \$52k under the DW program.
- More individuals are coming in for funding now that the economy is opening up after the pandemic.
- Becky Harris spoke on behalf of the Business Unit and shared that there were 82 OJT contracts written @ June 30, 2022 compared to 80 written as at March 24, 2023.
- NYSERDA OJT contracts totaling around 70 were not included in this number.

Motion to transfer \$100,000 from PY22 DW to PY22 Adult making the revised PY22 Adult funds \$669,213.22 and revised PY22 DW funds \$426,634.33. Brian Scanlon, 1st, Danielle Britton, 2nd. All in favor.

5) Grants update:

- i. ER-NDWG (Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant)

This grant has been extended from 9/30/22 to 9/30/23. Total grant amount is \$83,028.45. The eligibility for this grant was based on pandemic-related job displacement and as the pandemic wound down, few participants have taken advantage of this grant. Four OJTs amounting to \$11,050 were recorded under this grant.

ii. Collaborative Recovery Empowerment of the Southern Tier (CREST)/INSPIRE Grant

Persons in recovery from substance use disorders are assisted under this grant to return to the workforce. Assistance with transportation, purchase of work tools and work clothes have been provided to individuals to get them to a better place. One individual was assisted with a Lyft ride to get to an interview in Tioga. At least 140 individuals have been served by the counselor.

Another grant in the same vein was submitted on March 17, 2023 for individuals in recovery and who are justice involved. RCM and the CREST team will work with the Drug Court and Southern Tier 8 in this new grant. It is concentrated in Broome County for now and will include Tioga County for the next round if successful. Broome County Sheriff Fred Akshar has shown interest in helping out with individuals on probation and parole.

Len Basso mentioned that pre-employment background checks may prohibit employers searching for certain felony convictions relating to addiction.

Shawn Yetter shared that Tioga County program staff work closely with the County Probation Department.

iii. GVP (Gun Violence Prevention) Initiative

The GVP Initiative is due to end on March 31, 2023. RCM commented that at the recent NYATEP conference in Saratoga Springs, Juie Deo from NYSDOL Youth Programs had said the grant may be extended depending on the State Budget.

GVP concentrated on assisting youth aged 18-24 75% of whom should reside on zip codes 13901, 13904, 13905. It had \$750,000 allocated and the grant has \$580,000 remaining to be spent.

iv. New Energy NY (NENY)

This grant is for the Clean Energy sector and has \$113m allotted to Binghamton University. The consortium includes RIT, BU, SUNY Broome, Corning Community College, BTWF, Southern Tier Land Trust and has a daycare component to assist those working in the clean energy supply chain.

6) Youth Council

- Erin Monroe gave a summary of the Youth Council activities.

- The Council held meetings for the last 6 months with partners and school districts.
- The goal to connect with the school districts was further enhanced by a meeting that morning attended by Erin and guidance counselors from Broome County schools.
- At that meeting Erin dispelled the misconception that only youth with barriers could be helped at BTWF. BTWF provides many other services not only geared towards qualifying youth.
- Any job seeker is encouraged to approach the Career Centers for services.
- RCM commented that meetings had also been held with the Binghamton School Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Principal and all the leaders in the school district. The aim is to mirror the success in Tioga County and the close cooperation fostered by Sean Lanning, Jackie Burdick and Lisa Weston-Bialy between Workforce and the six Tioga County school districts.
- Successful candidates from BTWF programs should be able to share their stories with the high school senior classes.

7) Labor Market Report

- Christian Harris from NYSDOL reported on the latest labor market report for Binghamton MSA (January 2023) which had been circulated.
- The unemployment rate for Binghamton MSA was 4.6 %, similar to NYS's rate of 4.6% and comparable to Jan 2022's of 4.5%. Broome County recorded 4.7% unemployment rate for Jan 2023 and Tioga County's rate was 4.2%.
- The number of vacant positions vary from 3,900 per economists to 5,000 per job search agencies.
- The private sector gained 2,500 jobs from last year, but this is still 1,800 jobs below the pre-pandemic level in 2019.
- Biggest gains in employment as expected were in the leisure and hospitality sector. Construction and manufacturing also saw positive gains.
- Economists are predicting a 99% chance of a recession in the near future. The length and depth of this is up to discussion. Interest rates vs consumer demands are playing into the equation.
- Inflation at 9% seems to be slowing down with gas prices approaching the \$3/gallon mark and food prices moderating. The ideal inflation level would be 2%.
- Bank troubles are occurring with bad debts and uncertainties for start-ups. The tech sector is experiencing waves of layoffs.
- The labor force has shown strong growth year over year although labor participation rate showed a decline. The question of locating workers continue to plague us – senior workers may be retiring early and school age workers are not joining the workforce like they used to.
- Transportation and childcare remain barriers in the region. Employers are trying to be responsive to these barriers.

8) Any other matters

- Virtual Reality (VR) sets

- Vikki Kaufman passed around the latest new VR sets from NYSDOL.
 - These sets give participants hands on experiences with the various tasks within jobs and will greatly aid in their career exploration.
 - There are currently 300 modules to choose from, ranging from changing oil to being a welder, line worker or iron worker out on a beam.
 - Frank Stento commented that these are utilized in his industry and Walt Melzer suggested that it could be a useful filtering tool for those who need exposure to being out at job sites. David Goodness mentioned that these are used by the Dept of Transportation for job training.
 - Vikki encouraged feedback from all users on how to improve the VR sets or what users would like to see included in the modules.
- Guest speakers
 - Len Basso mentioned that guest speakers from the industries used to present at LWDB meetings. Now that the pandemic is under control perhaps this practice can be re-introduced.
 - Future WDB Meetings in 2023 –
 - June 23, 2023
 - September 22, 2023
 - December 15, 2023

Karen Shelp urged Board members to attend the next meeting in June as the PY23 budget will be presented then. There were some concerns on the date as that is graduation period and JP will send out a doodle poll to agree on a convenient date.
 - There being no further matters, motion to adjourn the meeting.
David Goodness 1st, Justin Marchuska 2nd. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 1.01 pm.