

Broome Tioga Workforce NY WDB Meeting

September 22, 2023

12 noon

**WDB Members:**

In person attendance: Michael Atchie, Len Basso (Vice Chair), Tom Crowley, Mary Hill, Allyn W. Jones, Justin Marchuska, Walter Melzer, Paula Perna, Brian Scanlon, Karen Shelp (Chair), Ken Smith, Frank Stento, Andrew Tunison

Zoomed: Danielle Britton

Excused: Maureen Abbott, Shawn Atkinson, Myra J. Bobo-Pickens, David Goodness, Jonathan Layish, Robert Messler, Chris Powers, Teresa Rennia, Rebecca Stone, LeeAnn Tinney, Shawn Yetter

**Staff and guests:**

In person attendance: Robert Murphy (RCM – Host, BTWF-Broome), Erin Evans, (Tioga CCE), Dave Goguen (BTWF- Broome), Kevin Harlost (BTWF – Broome), Vikki Kaufman (NYSDOL), Sean Lanning (Tioga Economic Development & Planning), JP Tschang (BTWF-Broome), Lisa Weston-Bialy (Tioga CCE)

Zoomed or called in: Christian Harris (NYSDOL), Holly Tracy (Broome CCE), Brittany Woodburn (Tioga County Economic Development and Planning)

Handouts: Agenda, WDB minutes for 6/23/23 meeting, Broome CCE Career Bound WDB Report PY23 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, Tioga CCE WDB Report PY23 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, One Stop Operator PY23 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter report July – Sept 2023, Youth contracts fiscal status as at 8/31/23, Annual Report PY22, Draft Self Sufficiency Policy, 70% of the Lower Living or Poverty Income Guidelines for 2023 chart for LWDBs, Self Sufficiency Wage graph from 2009- 2023, Binghamton MSA Labor Market Profile August 2023, Unemployment Rate Rankings by County August 2023

I. Karen Shelp as Chair called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.

II. Introduction of Members and Guests

RCM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

III. Review and approval of previous WDB meeting minutes:

Minutes for the meeting held on June 23, 2023 were reviewed. Motion to accept June 23, 2023 WDB meeting minutes. Len Basso 1<sup>st</sup>, Ken Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

IV. New Business

1) Youth Program status:

### Broome CCE

- Holly Tracy reported on Broome CCE's Career Bound activities.
- One of the youth educators' positions is now vacant and any interested persons are encouraged to apply.
- 21 youths were enrolled out of the targeted 60 for the whole of PY23 and considering that we are quarter way through with 15 targeted enrolments this is very good and things are picking up.
- Referrals have been received from Workforce and school districts. 10 individuals were employed locally at Willow Run, Broome County, Burger King, Nursefinders, Binghamton Hots, Wegmans, FedEx, Taco Bell and Wilson Dental.
- Four youths were in On-The-Job training (OJT) contracts, one from PY22.
- 8 youths attained credentials in Fork Truck and Customer Service.
- Tabling events were held at Union Endicott Family support Center's Food pantry and Our Lady of Good Counsel job fair
- Success stories included a youth employed with the newly opened Dick's House of Sports and was quickly promoted to Customer Service Supervisor.
- Funding was provided to one youth from PY22 for the LPN program who successfully gained employment upon completion. Two more from PY23 are being funded for the same program.

### Tioga CCE

- Lisa Weston-Bialy introduced Erin Evans as the new Youth Navigator for Tioga CCE. Erin's help would be greatly welcomed with the program activities as Tioga CCE has been short-staffed for a long time.
- Lisa has been the Acting Director for Tioga CCE since July 2023 due to T Hanson being on extended leave. An Interim Director has been appointed and will be starting soon.
- 15 youths were already enrolled to date, we are quarter way through PY23 and this is 60% of the targeted enrolment of 25 youths so it is going very well.
- Three persons obtained their GED, five were enrolled in training. Four youths were pursuing post-secondary education in Nursing, Liberal Arts, Health Services and Visual Arts.
- The youths have obtained financial literacy, work readiness, work ethics and interview skills training.
- Referrals are received from DSS, school districts and former clients.
- Success stories included a homeless youth who worked closely with Tioga CCE to obtain required documentation, enrolled in Oneonta Job Corp and is doing well. Another individual successfully saved up for and opened a dog grooming business and was interviewed by a local news channel.

## 2) Report from One Stop Operator – Kevin Harlost

- Kevin reported that the two sub-recipients were doing well and he will work on standardizing the forms to be submitted for quarterly reporting.
- Customer satisfaction surveys will be worked on.

## 3) Youth program fiscal status @ 8/31/23:

- JP Tschang referred to the handout which detailed claims from Broome and Tioga CCE up to August 2023 claim period.
- It was noted that both sub-recipients had over-achieved their PY22 target enrolments, Broome CCE had 72 youths against a target of 60 and Tioga CCE had 30 youths against a targeted 25.
- Broome CCE over-claimed their YTD claims up to August 2023 by \$6,218.04 or 4%. They have requested a budget modification of an amount not to exceed \$15k for PY23 and this is to be discussed. Being underclaimed in past years may help their request for PY23 (Underclaim for PY21 was \$5k and a previous contract year had been awarded at \$130,000 instead of \$150,000).
- Frank Stento queried on what would happen if the sub-recipients spent more than budgeted. RCM replied that they had a 2-year contract and there was room to spend up to June 2024.
- Tioga CCE had vacant positions for the program staff for a long period and just recently added a Youth Navigator to their staff. Their claims up to July 2023 were 42% under-claimed.
- Youth Work Experience expenses were under-claimed by 42 % for Tioga CCE and 35% for Broome CCE. JP encouraged both parties to spend and charge more time to work experience activities.

#### 4) Annual Report including PY22 OJT/ITAs, Actual Expenditure and grants update

- The Annual Report for PY22 contained descriptions of the services offered at the Broome and Tioga Career Centers, details on job fairs held, training programs and grants undertaken for the year, actual expenditure for PY22, demographics of the program graduates and new initiatives such as the Teacher Ambassador program and Broome-Tioga Youth Council.
- RCM discussed the latest grants in the Annual Report, one of which is the New Energy New York (NENY) grant. BTWF was awarded \$1.475 over 3 years for this grant to train workers in the battery technology sector. Senator Schumer was instrumental in bringing this grant home to NY.
- Other grants are the NY SCION grant for those with physical challenges and the GVP grant which concentrates on helping youths in zip codes 13901,13904,13905 obtain employment. There was still over \$500k left to spend on the GVP grant which ends in March 2024.
- RCM has been invited to Washington DC to speak on the success of the Opportunity Impact Training Program (OITP) and will take this opportunity to share the lessons learnt from running the program.
- A new grant is the ARC Ready for Work grant which will focus on individuals in the re-entry and recovery path in collaboration with the Binghamton City Drug Court, Addiction Center of Broome County (ACBC) and SUNY Broome.
- A Recompete grant in collaboration with Binghamton University is also being worked on.
- The Teacher Ambassador program over the summer brought 4 teachers to the Career Center and immersed them in the services provided here as well as tours of local employers. The goal was to increase awareness of local job opportunities in the trades and other sectors. The teachers involved agreed that it was an eye-opening experience. This also

provides an opening for Workforce into the schools to talk about careers to graduates who may not be college-bound after high school.

- The number of visitors to the Career Center have been affected by the COVID pandemic. In PY19 (7/1/19 – 6/30/20) there were 10,485 customers which dropped to 1,855 in PY20, picked up to 4,346 in PY21 and 6,842 in PY22. Broome Career Center had to close from March to June 2020 but Tioga Career Center remained open as they are co-located with DSS.
- Len Basso asked about the partner agency Commission for the Blind and whether that is different from AVRE. RCM responded that a Commission representative came into Broome Career Center to inspect the computer hardware and software that are available for the visually impaired and has attended staff meetings to share on how best to help them. AVRE is a local paper manufacturer that employs the visually impaired.
- Mary Hill from iM3NY shared that a new training program being worked on will offer more advanced technical training for process technicians on the shop floor.

#### 5) Update to Policy – Self Sufficiency policy update

- RCM stated that the latest poverty guidelines issued by NYS for 2023 changes the amount for the Self-Sufficiency wage rate based on the formula. This self-sufficiency wage rate would affect the eligibility for funding participants for classroom training (ITAs) and the 50% reimbursement rate for On-The-Job Training (OJT) contracts with employers.
- Current rate was \$22.86 per hour for household of one, the new rate would be \$24.53 per hour.

Motion to change the self-sufficiency wage rate for household of one from \$22.86 to \$24.53 per hour. Len Basso, 1<sup>st</sup>, Walt Melzer, 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

#### 6) Youth Council

- Erin Monroe who used to be in charge of the Youth Council has resigned and a replacement is being sought.
- Vikki Kaufman and Dave Croston from NYSDOL were very involved with the Teacher Ambassador program to facilitate the youth program in the region. Tours of BAE and iM3NY facilities had been conducted as well as meetings with partner agencies.

#### 7) Labor Market Report – Christian Harris

- Christian Harris from NYSDOL reported on the latest statistics from the Labor Dept.
- Binghamton MSA's unemployment rate of 3.7% for August 2023 was better than the 3.9% in August 2022.
- The labor pool is shrinking and people who are on the sidelines, not working and not looking for work should be encouraged to join the labor force.
- About 5,000 positions were available at the end of August 2023 and this was comparable to 2022 when 5,700 positions were vacant.
- Recession fears have been pushed back but the looming Government shutdown was cause for concern.

- The UAW and writers' strikes were indicative of the market – employees want to be paid for the profits they help generate. The outcome of these strikes will determine what happens in future.

8) Any other matters

- RCM shared that he is in discussions with Binghamton High School about using a food truck to do outreach to the students for the GVP grant. It would be good for the students to be made aware of opportunities in the different sectors like healthcare, transportation, administration. Permission will be obtained from the Board or initially the Chairperson to conduct this outreach.
- Brian Scanlon inquired about whether HVAC training would be re-instated at BOCES. Discussion ensued on the availability of instructors – there is a need in the region but the lack of instructors prevents the classes from being offered. Retirees may be asked to be instructors as they have the needed skills.
- There will be a high need for labor in the future due to more companies coming into the region – among them Micron, a large cheese factory and solar energy companies.
- Future WDB Meeting in 2023 –  
December 15, 2023
- There being no further matters, motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Frank Stento 1<sup>st</sup>, Walt Melzer 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 1 pm.