

**ROCKLAND COUNTY
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 12th, 2019
Time: 8:00 to 10:00 AM
Location: 50 Sanitorium Rd., Pomona, NY Building A, 7th Floor

WDB Board Attendees:

Ann Byne	Howard Hellman	Pat Rajala
Brian Levy	Jill Warner	Renold Julien
Craig Jacobs	Lynne Allen	Sr. Kathleen Sullivan
Don Lucarello	Mary Shinick	Tom Ossa
Eileen Guzzo	Michele Green (by phone)	Matthew Shelley

Excused:

Bob Dutra	Nicole Anderson	Robert Woodill
Kathy R. Canter		

Elena Hansen	Joe Allen	Ramon Solo
Gregory Parseghian		

Invitee: Jeremy Schulman, Rockland County Director of Economic Development & Tourism

WDB Staff members: Debi J. Thomas. Ph.D

8:27 AM Welcome & Opening Discussion – Lynne Allen, Chair

Lynne opened the meeting and made introductions welcomed everyone to the board meeting.

Minutes of the June 6, 2019 WDB Board meeting were approved as written.

DOL Manager Update – Don Lucarello

Don updated the board on the Dept. Of Labor activities. Primary focus in the Hudson Valley is preparing for the 2021 closing of Entergy Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant. Exiting of employees is starting now, estimating that as many as one thousand people will be seeking services. Many will relocate, but many will be in need of services. This population have unique skill sets. DOL is working to ensure that career counselors are in place to help people in transition, to discover what skills are needed and to focus training. Steve Ryan from Albany has been at the location since April 19th. Twenty people from the Dept. of Labor are receiving special training. Entergy is offering retention bonuses to employees who will stay until the plant closes. The Dept of Labor is initiating a rapid response team. Once skill sets have been identified they will be reaching out to local employers and will provide Debi with zip codes and hot spots where they will provide services. Debi asked if there would be a budget issue for this. Don explained that most of DOL programs are front loaded and that the impact should be minimal. A question was asked if there are any openings in the North Rockland power plant, but that location has been scaling back as well.

Financial Report – Dr. Dan DoBell, Dan Tauken

Dan presented the budget that had been voted on at the last meeting. We are required to obligate 80% of the budget thru 6/30. Dan thanked Chris from BOCES for providing information that brought the number up to 91%. He also thanked Don and Tom for getting a reimbursement from Haverstraw. He stated that as of September all funds are gone. Bert noted that he revised staff salaries up \$29,000.

Lynne Allen motioned for an official vote on the budget

- Pat Rajala - motion
- Ann Byne – second
- Unanimously approved

Rockland County Career Center – Egbert Shillingford

Bert reported that the Q2 adult employment rate goal was 67.6% reaching 96.3%. The dislocated workers Q2 employment rate goal was 66% reaching 85.9%. The Q4 adult employment rate goal was 67% reaching 93.4%. Dislocated workers Q4 employment rate goal was 65.2% reaching 98.4%.

Summer has been slow but they continue to offer workshops, placement and other services. There will be a job fair at Spring Valley on Friday Sept. 13th with twenty-five employers attending. There will be another job fair on Oct. 5th at the Palisades Center with thirty employers registered to attend. Unemployment rate is 3.8%.

A question was posed to the DOL regarding clients that have been seeking services for a long time. What can be done to help them? Don answered that clients are helped with resume writing and interviewing skills. Those from higher paying jobs do have a hard journey and career counselors advise them. If clients want to stay with what they have been doing in the past they may need to search beyond the Hudson valley. The alternatives are to develop an employment plan and to consider other occupations. Some may need total retraining. Bert commented that individuals must remain flexible.

Rockland Youth WIOA Program – Chris D'Ambrese

Chris reported that there have been forty-one new enrollments for PY 18 bringing the total number close to one hundred. There have been fourteen new enrollments.

Chris reported seeing a trend toward cyber tech at intake with a few more males moving to that program. Eileen from Donnelly and Moore made the board aware of scholarships for a master's degree in cyber security her company offers in partnership with the New York City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Last year they provided one full and two half scholarships. Students take classes at Fordham in the Bronx and Midtown. She asked that Youth Connections please make her aware of any possible candidates that could be put in the mix. RCCC has received that information and Chris promised to look out for candidates as the program moves forward.

In July twelve youths graduated from the North Rockland and Spring Valley Summer Bridge to Collage Program. Most started a paid work experience with some moving on to RCC. The Regents Prep program completed in June with 12 or 13 Spring Valley students receiving Regents Diplomas.

OCFS funding has been secured targeting youth residing in Spring Valley, running with the Youth Connections Program, focusing on young adults who are or were involved in the justice system.

Youth Connections participated in the Youth Job Fair in Spring Valley in August and will be attending the Sept. 13th Job Fair, Suffern Day, and the Oct. Palisades Center Job Fair.

Performance Measures Credential Attainment Youth was highest in Mid-Hudson at 77%.

Debi followed up on the problem with reporting the credentialing. The report card goes to the public and needs to appear in the database.

It was also reported that Q3 Median Earnings for Youths was \$5,326, between \$12,000 and \$13,000 per year.

Action Item:

- ITA Policy Update – Debi explained that the ITA cap was at \$3,000 and only supported priority sectors. A request was made to the Executive committee to update the policy to cover the tuition of seven students, five in Bio-med and two in Advanced Manufacturing to \$2,900 each. Moving forward ITA requests and WDB Board meetings do not align so a notice will be sent out to the Executive Committee to vote.

Lynne Allen motioned to approve ITA the policy update.

- Craig Jacobs - motion
- Brian Levy – second
- Unanimously approved

WDB Report – Executive Director, Debra J. Thomas, Ph.D.

Debi reported on the CFA Grant. We are looking to take advantage of regional grants, focusing on Young Professional Pathway. We are losing youth in the county and need to find a pathway for them to stay. Rockland and Westchester will be regional partners and have met several times to outline a regional scope. Debi should have more information at the next meeting.

Jeremy added that the CFA offers a lot of funding opportunities, such as for planning studies that could be used to provide towns and villages with policy playbooks and ways to streamline land use and permitting processes-- everything from best practices to digital guides and training.

Tom reported on the Rocklandwork.org website. A location for board members to log on to the website was set up and information will be sent by email. All board members will be able to access this area of the site.

Action Items:

- Michelle reported on the upcoming Rockland Employment Network Breakfast on Oct. 25th. Thirty-five business, the County Executive, provider agencies such as Youth Connections and Project Search will be represented. REN is requesting and underwrite and support of \$1,875.00.

Lynne Allen motioned to approve support for the REN breakfast.

- Matt Shelley – motion
- Tom Ossa - second
- Unanimously approved

- The MOU with Rockland Continuum of Care was discussed. Rockland Continuum of Care is HUD funded and focuses on housing. They need to work with the WDB to provide housing plus skills.

Lynne Allen motioned to approve a MOU with Rockland County Continuum of Care

- Matt Shelley - motion

- Craig Jacobs – second
- Unanimously approved

After a brief recess the Board went into Executive Session.

2020 Rockland County RFP Career Center Consortia Operator Final Selection

The results of the RFP for the Career Center were discussed. NYATEP facilitated the process. There were eight or nine inquiries of the RFP and four applications, including RCC, WorkPlace, ReCare and BOCES. A rubric was used and each application was given three blind reviews from NYATEP. The results of the NYATEP review were reported to the Executive Committee, who accepted their findings.

It was recommended that a consortium be set up and that the program be awarded to BOCES. The rankings were BOCES, WorkPlace, ResCare and RCC. Two local agencies and two from out of state.

Results proved that the local organization was the best fit. There have been discussions with Westchester's One Stop Career Center to get involved with regional agencies with deep national connections.

It is hoped that RCC will continue to be the fiscal agent. This is confidential until Guillermo and Jeremy can meet with RCC President. A question was posed if RCC declines to continue as the fiscal agent then who would it be, and at what cost? This will need to be reviewed. The state does have models for this.

The operating premise is to separate the fiscal operation from the program operator. It will be a more flexible, sector driven system. Instead of the two sites now in use there will be one site. Location of the site is a concern as transportation within the county is an issue.

It is proposed that a voucher will be assigned to clients at their point of entry. Once it has been decided the services needed the provider will be paid. The focus will be on the client.

Lynne Allen motioned to move forward with the RFP for the Career Center Consortia Operator Final Selection.

- Craig Jacobs - motion
- Don Lucarello – second
- Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.