

Workforce Development Board of Columbia & Greene Counties

Minutes for January 19, 2021 4:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

MISSION: The C-G WDB will provide leadership, influence, focus and oversight for the local workforce development system. *Strategies to Achieve Vision and Mission:*

- Promote collaboration between economic development, education and training resources
- Measure system performance for quality improvement
- Promote the system with the public

Vice Chair Mike Veeder called the meeting to order at 4:33. Katy Drake took attendance when admitting board members and guests into the Zoom Meeting. Roll call was then read to verify attendance. Vice-Chairman Veeder welcomed all members and thanked them for their attendance. This virtual meeting was recorded for future reference.

Present: Debra Armstrong, Lindsay Arp, Mark Fingar, Susan Gallagher, Karl Heck, Jim Lapenn, Chris Nardone, Kathryn Nelson, Ann Marie O'Hanlon, John Rutkey, Trent Sano, Brya Scali, Aimee Skiff, Lisa Thomas, Cindy Tipple, Michael Torchia, Mike Veeder, Terry McGee Ward and Joe Wolodkevich

Consultant: Katy Drake

Excused Scott Brazie, Jamie Budai, Maryanne Lee, Florence Ohle, Kathy Roop, Joe Sacchetti, Deb Tuttle, Jane Wais

Guests: Ron Valentine/Questar III, Rebecca Preusser/Associate Director of Youth Services, Danielle Palleschi/Associate Director for Business Services, Jeanette O'Neil/Associate Director-WIO, Mark Rowntree with James and Frank for Work Experience Presentation-PLOT

With 19 out of a 31 member Board in attendance, a quorum was available.

New member, Mr. Trent Sano/Ducommun, was welcomed to the Workforce Board.

Designing Philmont, Building Community- Youth Work Experience Presentation

Mark Rowntree, along with Frank and James presented on the WIO work experience with Philmont Land Opportunity Trust (PLOT).

WIO Business Services Presentation

Danielle Palleschi presented information on WIO Business Services. Fact sheets were distributed via email with the meeting agenda. Funding may be available for OJTs and ITAs for eligible customers. The HR Roundtable will start up again with a virtual presentation by John Bagyi-- on March 3rd from 9:00 – 10:15 am. Mr. Bagyi will present on **Covid-19 and Other Employment Law Developments Impacting the Workplace.**

For more information on Business Services, please contact Danielle at Danielle.palleschi@sunycgcc.edu.

Coursera Presentation

Jeanette O'Neil presented information on Coursera. Coursera is an education platform that partners with top universities and organizations worldwide, to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free. Coursera can be used by businesses to provide training to current employees or by job seekers to skill up. Coursera is interactive and students have access to teachers and other students for discussions and shared learning. The differences between Metrix and Coursera were discussed. Please contact Jeanette at jeanette.oneil@sunycgcc.edu if interested in learning more about Coursera.

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ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

John Rutkey made a motion to accept the WDB meeting minutes for October 20, 2020. Michael Torchia seconded the motion. The motion was carried with all members in favor. Meeting notes are posted on the website-- www.columbiagreeneetworks.org.

STATUS OF VACANCIES

Mr. Trent Sano/Ducommun was appointed to the CGWDB. Two Columbia County business representatives are in recruitment. Two Greene business representatives are in recruitment for future vacancies. The appointment of Mr. Ron Valentine/Questar III is pending. Karl Heck has been appointed Chair of the Business Services Committee with Danielle Palleschi appointed Vice Chair. Chris Nardone has been appointed Chair of the Partners' Committee with Sue Gallagher appointed Vice Chair. Nominations for Board Chair (Columbia Business Representative) will be accepted until the position is filled. Until a Chair is elected, Vice Chair Mike Veeder will cover the position of WDB Chair.

Workforce Office & Services During COVID-19

Chris Nardone, WIO Director, shared information on how services are being provided during the COVID-19 crisis. Most services are being provided remotely, but the Workforce Office is open by appointment. Staffing and safety procedures were reviewed. Customers wishing to make an appointment should leave a message at (518) 828-4181 ext. 5510.

Chris shared information on the virtual workshops being offered across our 11 county region. To date, workshops and virtual job fairs have not been overly successful—with very limited attendance. Susan Gallagher provided information on InterviewStream. InterviewStream can be used on any mobile device and allows the user to practice virtual interviews and received feedback.

Chris provided a brief budget overview for PY20.

The Board discussed the needs for partnerships to address local CDL and LPN/Healthcare Training. Currently, these training providers are all out of county and job seekers often then end up working out of county upon completion of their training. Local CDL and LPN training partnerships will be added to the upcoming Business Services Meeting Agenda.

Good and Welfare

Business Members and Partners shared updates and announcements.

Columbia Greene Full Board Meeting Schedule- PY20		
April 20, 2021	4:30 pm	Virtual
July 20, 2021	8:30 am Note: Morning Mtg	Virtual

The meeting adjourned at 5:45

Notes by Katy Drake/ WDB Consulting Director