

Workforce Development Board of Columbia & Greene Counties

Minutes for April 20, 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

WDB Director, Katy Drake called the meeting to order at 4:35. Attendance was taken when admitting board members and guests into the Zoom Meeting. Roll call was then read to verify attendance. Members were welcomed and thanked for their attendance during this busy time. This virtual meeting was recorded for future reference.

Present: Lindsay Arp, Scott Brazie, Jamie Budai, Susan Gallagher, Karl Heck, Jim Lapenn, Maryanne Lee, Chris Nardone, Ann Marie O'Hanlon, Florence Ohle, John Rutkey, Brya Scali, Aimee Skiff, Lisa Thomas and Ron Valentine

Consultant: Katy Drake

Excuse: Debra Armstrong, Mark Fingar, Kathryn Nelson, Kathy Roop, Joe Sacchetti, Cindy Tipple, Michael Torchia, Deb Tuttle, Mike Veeder, Jane Wais, Terry McGee Ward and Joe Wolodkevich

Guests: Heather Maassman/YES Instructor, Rebecca Preusser/Associate Director of Youth Services, Danielle Palleschi/Associate Director for Business Services, Jeanette O'Neil/Associate Director-WIO and Katie DeMuth/ACCES VR.

With 15 out of a 30 Board Members in attendance, a quorum was not available.

New member, Mr. Ron Valentine, was officially welcomed to the Workforce Board.

WIO Youth Services Presentation

The meeting started with a showing of the new Youth Services Video. Heather Maassman, the new YES Instructor, shared her experiences in running the YES program during COVID. Rebecca Preusser provided the Board an update on internships, work experience and the Summer Youth Employment Program.

MEMBERSHIP-Board Update

Katy Drake, WDB Director

- Welcome new member, Mr. Ron Valentine, Questar III. Ron's appointment was finalized in February 2021.
- Two Columbia County business representatives are in recruitment. Four Greene Business Representatives are in recruitment for two current vacancies and two pending vacancies. Recommendations for Business Representatives for both counties are desperately needed as COVID has greatly impacted all local businesses and potential representatives have not had the time to serve right now.
- Re-appointments are in process with the Board of Supervisors and the Greene Legislature. Re-appointments will be finalized by July 1, 2021.

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COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Katy Drake, WDB Director

- The Columbia Greene MOU was approved by NYSDOL to move on to the legal review on April 5, 2020. Once final approval is received, partners will be contacted to start the signatory process.
- Local and Regional Plan- Guidance was issued on April 5, 2021 with summer due dates. Katy and Chris will draft the plan using the template and the information submitted in the PY20 plan last March. There will be a public comment period.
- One Stop Procurement is pending NYSDOL guidance. Procurement is expected to be done in the upcoming six months but will not be started until guidance is up to date through NYSDOL.

WORKFORCE OFFICE-Board Update

Chris Nardone, WIO Director

- Chris shared information on WIO services during COVID 19:
 - ❖ Career Jam
 - ❖ Virtual Hospitality Career Fair
 - ❖ HR Roundtable Presentation on March 3, 2021 (virtual) by John Bagyi with 60 professionals in attendance
 - ❖ Videos and Website Updates
 - ❖ The CG WIO Career Center is expected to fully open in September. Customers can visit the center by appointment only starting mid-May.
- Chris provided a budget overview for PY20 (July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021). More information will be available in May but a waiver of the 80% obligation is anticipated again this year due to COVID.
- Information was shared on a Career Closet. This project will work in conjunction with Community Action who provides vouchers for those in need of professional clothing for interviews and work.
- A week long Leadership & Management Training Program is being developed in response to local business needs.

PRESENTATION- New Virtual Career Fair Platform

Chris Nardone presented the new Virtual Career Fair Platform to the Board demonstrating the value the platform brings to job seekers and businesses.

Local Business/Organization Updates

Board Members

Good and Welfare

Virtual Job Fair Platform:

With record high unemployment rates and businesses in need of workers, bridging the gap between technology and human interaction has never been more important. Like many organizations during this time, Columbia-Greene Workforce is working to address COVID-19 related needs and constraints. The Workforce Office sought Hudson River Bank and Trust Foundation funding to purchase a virtual job fair platform which connects employers and job seekers.

Throughout Columbia and Greene County, businesses need employees while dislocated workers struggle to rebuild. Traditional methods of recruiting and hiring are no longer sufficient.

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For businesses, virtual job fair/recruitment platforms provide an efficient and economical way to reach prospective employees. For job seekers, virtual job fairs are convenient and safe. There is no need to commute to a location and there is access to multiple employers.

Additionally, this technology supports accessible training and workshop opportunities. A virtual job fair platform, which is available at no cost to business or job seekers, will support the businesses and people of Columbia and Greene counties to build back better, strengthening our economy and our communities.

**\$10,000 received from Hudson River Bank and Trust , \$2500 received from CEDC—
THANK YOU!**

Career Closet:

The devastating economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been felt throughout our counties. With record high unemployment numbers and financial insecurity there will be vast increases in the number of dislocated workers seeking services. At the Career Center, we offer job search assistance, resume writing, training and education. However, for many jobseekers, appropriate work attire remains a significant barrier. Making a positive first impression is an essential component of a successful interview.

The Career Closet hopes to provide free professional and appropriate work attire to low-income job seekers and in-need students. Many people simply cannot afford to purchase the professional and appropriate attire needed to obtain employment. This program seeks to help. Workforce staff will assist clients in choosing outfits that will be donated by caring individuals throughout the Columbia and Greene County communities. As we look towards a brighter new year, we can provide valuable assistance and a leg up to job seekers who are rebuilding.

\$1000 received from Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation—THANK YOU!

Columbia Greene Full Board Meeting Schedule- PY20

July 20, 2021	4:30 am Note: Change in time due to virtual	Zoom Meeting
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The meeting adjourned at 5:36

Notes by Katy Drake/ WDB Consulting Director