

# Workforce Development Board of Columbia & Greene Counties

## Minutes for October 20, 2020 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

Chair Mike Veeder called the meeting to order at 4:31. Katy Drake took attendance when admitting board members and guests into the Zoom Meeting. Roll call was then read to verify attendance. Chairman Veeder welcomed all members and thanked them for their attendance. This virtual meeting was recorded for future reference.

**Present:** \*Debra Armstrong, Lindsay Arp, \*Scott Brazie, Jamie Budai, Chris Foster, Susan Gallagher, \*Karl Heck, Jim Lapenn, Kathryn Nelson, Ann Marie O'Hanlon, Florence Ohle, John Rutkey, \*Brya Scali, Aimee Skiff, \*Lisa Thomas, Cindy Tipple, Michael Torchia, Deb Tuttle, Mike Veeder, Jane Wais, \*Terry McGee Ward and \*Joe Wolodkevich

**Consultant:** Katy Drake

**Excused** Mark Fingar , \*Maryanne Lee, Kathy Roop, Joe Sacchetti,

**Guests:** Rebecca Preusser/Associate Director of Youth Services, Sage & Tammy representing Hudson Hall, Jeff Friedman representing Greene Chamber of Commerce, and Kai representing

### **With 22 out of a 31 member Board in attendance, a quorum was available.**

\*Due to electronic voting over Zoom, Board members were offered the opportunity to vote via email. Proxy and email votes were tallied during the roll call votes by the Consulting Director.

New member, Mr. Chris Nardone/CGCC-WIO, was welcomed to the Workforce Board.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Cindy Tipple made a motion to accept the WDB meeting minutes for May 19, 2020. Jim Lapenn seconded the motion. At the end of the meeting, the motion was carried with all members in favor. Meeting notes are posted on the website-- [www.columbiagreenetworks.org](http://www.columbiagreenetworks.org).

### **STATUS OF VACANCIES**

Mr. Chris Nardone/CGCC WIO was appointed to the CGWDB. Mrs. Terri Drobner/DigiFabShop retired at the end of September. Two Columbia County business representatives are in recruitment. Two Greene business representatives are in recruitment for future vacancies. One Greene Business Representative (Ducommun) is pending appointment.

### **SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM PRESENTATION**

Rebecca Pruesser provided an overview of the 2020 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The challenges of safe worksites, securing PPE and the late funding approval for SYEP were shared with the Board. 38 youth from Columbia County and 36 youth from Greene participated in SYEP 2020. Media information on successful SYEP initiatives and events were shared with the Board. Four SYEP youth shared their personal experiences with the Board. Sage and Tammy from Hudson Hall, Jeff Friedman from Greene Chamber and Kai from MHA Clubhouse shared their positive summer youth experiences from an employer perspective.

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Rebecca was acknowledged for an incredibly successful summer program, despite COVID challenges and late funding approval.

### 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 virtually, 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.

Susan Gallagher provided a NYSDOL update. NYSDOL staff are all still mainly focused on Unemployment Insurance. Sue shared the tremendous effort put forth from NYSDOL staff, still working mandatory OT, to process the incredible number of UI claims due to COVID.

Chris provided a brief budget overview for PY20. The ability to carry over from PY19 has allowed the office to hire new staff for training in anticipation of the upcoming 2021 WIO staff retirements.

Chris shared information on CG workforce initiatives. Chris is currently working on the following: AlbanyCanCode Partnership, Hospitality project, library outreach & workshops, regional job seeker workshops, hiring a YES Instructor & Assistant and updating the web site.

### Election of WDB Officers

Due to Terri Drobner's retirement the Board is seeking nominations for Chair (Columbia County), as well as Vice Chair (Greene County) and Secretary (General Membership). A Nominating Committee was appointed at the spring meeting. The nominating committee put forth the recommendation of Mike Veeder/Kooltemp (Greene Business) for Vice Chair and Kathryn Nelson/Bank of Greene County (General Membership) for Secretary. At this time, no Columbia County Business Representative has accepted a nomination for Chair. Any Columbia Business Rep interested in serving as Chair should reach out to Katy Drake or the Nominating Committee.

Michael Torchia made a motion to elect Mike Veeder as Vice Chair. Brya Scali seconded the nomination. Jim Lapenn made a motion to elect Kathryn Nelson as secretary. Susan Gallagher seconded the motion.

A vote by rollcall, also using email ballots (for members present) and proxy voting, was conducted. Mike Veeder was elected Vice Chair unanimously. Kathryn Nelson was elected to the position of Secretary unanimously.

Nominations for Chair will be accepted until the position is filled. Until a Chair is elected, Vice Chair Mike Veeder will cover the position of Chair.

### Good and Welfare

- Each Board member shared how they are conducting business during these challenging times.
- Kathryn Nelson and Lisa Thomas were thanked for their time and efforts serving on the Nominating Committee.
- Chris Foster was recognized for his service. Chris has retired from his full time role at Questar III, but continues to serve part time covering TASC testing.

John Rutkey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karl Heck seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:06.

Notes by Katy Drake/ WDB Consulting Director