

Workforce Development Board of Columbia and Greene Counties  
Workforce Development Board Meeting-July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 9:30 am

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

Welcome: Chris Nardone, Board Director

The meeting opened at 9:30 am with roll call

Present: Amanda Karch, Arica Cooper, Blake Garrison, Brya Scali, Florence Ohle, James Hannahs, Jessica Gabriel, Kathy Nelson, Lisa Thomas, Mark Fingar, Patrick Brown, Rachel Puckett, Scott Brazie, Stephanie Schleuderer, Susan Sommers Evens

Excused: Aimee Skiff, Jamie Budai, Joe Wolodkevich, John Rutkey, Laura Becker, Michele Troy-Ryder, Mike Veeder, Nicole Bliss, Patrick Corrigan, Peggy Moon

With 16 Board Members in attendance, a quorum was available.

Acceptance of Minutes: Chris Nardone, Board Director

- Vote to accept the minutes from the April 16, 2024, Meeting
  - Motion: James Hannahs, Seconded: Blake Garrison Passed unanimously

Membership-Board Update, Chris Nardone, Board Director

- Discussion was had that the Board has the following openings: 1 Greene County business opening, 2 Columbia County business openings, 1 Columbia County Union Representative (to be replaced by the BOS)

Resolutions: Chris Nardone, Board Director

Election of slate of officers

Motion was made to elect the Columbia-Greene Workforce Development Board slate officers

- John Rutkey-Chair
- Racheal Puckett-Vice Chair
- Nicole Bliss-Secretary
  - Motion: Mike Torchia, Seconded: Kathy Nelson Passed unanimously

Motion was made to approve the Workforce Development Budget for Program Year 24

- Motion: James Hannahs, Seconded: Kathy Nelson Passed unanimously

Motion was made to approve the Workforce Career Center, Center Certification

- Motion: Blake Garrison, Seconded: James Hannahs Passed unanimously

Motion was made to change the approval process in the financial processing structure at CGCC for all payments over \$10,000 to be approved by the Board.

- Motion: James Hannahs, Seconded: Rachel Puckett Passed unanimously

Workforce Office Center Update: Amanda Karch, Center Director

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Disability Summit- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Disability Summit had over 200 attendees, with 85 in person and 120 virtually. The NYS Inclusive Employment Summit promoted the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the workforce, was held in collaboration with state and local agencies and gathered government officials, workforce development professionals, disability advocates, and representatives from various sectors to share strategies and best practices for enhancing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- CRPA Class-12 students registered, with 11 completions, 10 paid for by WIOA funding, 2 students received scholarships from Columbia County.
- GED Update/number serviced-Since April 17<sup>th</sup>, an average of 12-15 exams have been administered per week.
- Focus on Dislocated Workers-As seen in the budget et for PY 24, there is significant funding to support Dislocated Workers. This was found to be one of the greatest opportunities for service and the coming year will focus on target outreach specific to this population.
- Developing a plan to increase accessibility for New Americans-Proposal to consider transforming Youth Council to a committee focused on the needs of an emerging workforce.

System Update: Chris Nardone, Board Director

- Budget Overview and presentation on the PY24 Budget with information about upcoming grant opportunities and that the budget has set aside funding to accommodate potential growth in cost and fees from the College.
- Business Advisory Committee—Because of new priorities for the Board, and to ensure active and purposeful engagement, the Business Advisory Committee is on hold while assessment and planning for the future of this committee is being conducted.
- Number of customers accessing the center-500
- Recovery ready workplace-The participation of WIO staff in the CRPA class reinforces and shows example of the benefit of prioritizing a recovery ready workplace. Almost every business will have employees who have been impacted in some way by addiction issues and recognizing how the workplace can support individuals will assist in retention, recruitment, and an inclusive environment.

Compliance Update: Chris Nardone, Board Director

- Columbia Greene MOU- Approved for Signatures June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024-Working with Partners to get MOU signed

**Columbia Economic Development Update**, Jessica Gabriels

**Greene Economic Development Update**, James Hannahs-Update was given about GEDC presentation regarding Senior Housing and the need for age restricted units to accommodate upcoming needs for housing in Greene County.

## **Good and Welfare**

### *Definitions*

*MOU- Memorandum of Understanding*

*NOA- Notice of Obligational Authority*

*FOTA- Fiscal Oversight and Technical Assistance*

*SED- State Education Department*

*WIOA- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (2014)*

*OJT- On the Job Training*

*JSEC- Job Service Employer Committee*

*NYSDOL- New York State Dept of Labor*

*TET DWG- Trade and Economic Transition National Dislocated Worker Grant*

*S.T.E.M—Science, Technology, Engineering and Math*

*NWRC- National Work Readiness Credential*

*TANF- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*

*UI- Unemployment Insurance*

*ITA- Individual Training Account*

*SYEP- Summer Youth Employment Program*

*GED- NYS High School Equivalency Exam return in 2022*

*CLEOs- Chief Local Elected Officials*

*OTDA- Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance*

*PY 22- Program Year beginning July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023*

*PY 23- Program Year beginning July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024*

*NEG- National Emergency Grant*

*WARN ACT- The Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act*

*TAA- Trade Adjustment Assistance*

*REA- Re-employment and Eligibility Assessment*

*DRN- Disability Resource Navigator – grant starting in 2022*