

## Workforce Development Board of Columbia and Greene Counties

Workforce Development Board Meeting-January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 8:30 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: Rachel Puckett, Vice Chair

The meeting opened at 8:30 am with roll call

Present: Arica Cooper, Blake Garrison, Florence Lorenz, Jamie Budai, Kathryn Nelson, Laura Becker, Lisa Thomas, Mark Fingar, Michael Torchia, Nicole Frisbee, Patrick Brown, Rachel Puckett, Victoria Walsh, Susan Sommers Evens, Jim Niedermier, Peggy Moon

Excused: Aimee Skiff, Brya Scali, James Hannahs, Joe Wolodkevich, John Rutkey, Mike Veeder, Scott Brazie

Introduction of guests: Christopher Nardone, Executive Director of NYATEP (New York State Association of Training and Employment Professionals). NYATEP will be attending WDB meetings across the state to provide updates and information on state and federal initiatives. Dr. Jim Niedermier is pending appointment as the WIOA Title II representative.

With 15 Board Members in attendance, a quorum was available.

Rachel Puckett welcomed new members with the announcements of the appointment of Rebecca Preusser Center Director of the Columbia-Greene Workforce Career Center, the appointment of Dr. Victoria Walsh, Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Columbia-Greene Community College as Higher Education required partner, the -Pending Appointment of Dr. James Niedermeier, Associate Superintendent of Questar III Boces, for Title II, Adult Literacy partner, and the pending Appointment, Chris Brown, Housing Coordinator for Columbia Economic Development Corporation.

Rachel Puckett and Amanda Karch presented a new resolution, the Retroactive One-Stop Operator extension, through PY 24 and reviewed previous presented resolutions. Due to a lack of quorum at the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, five previous resolutions needed a vote. Six resolutions were presented in total:

- Can Code Communities and Columbia Reentry Contract (updated cost)
  - Motion by Florence Lorenz, Second by Susan Sommers Evans
- 14 Youth Elements Approval
  - Motion by Susan Sommer Evans, Second by Blake Garrison
- PY 24 Budget Modifications
  - Motion by Nicole Frisbee, Second by Florence Lorenz

- Amendment to WDB Bylaws
  - Motion by Mark Fingar, Second by Florence Lorenz
- Executive Director Employer of Record
  - Motion by Nicole Frisbee, Second by Lisa Thomas
- Retroactive One-Stop Extension
  - Motion by Arica Cooper, Second by Lisa Thomas

A comprehensive vote to approve all resolutions was conducted.

All in favor: 14

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 1

#### System Updates:

Amanda Karch presented the resolution of the PY 23 Fiscal Review. No findings occurred, and the Review is closed. The Retroactive One-Stop Extension Resolution was required by the NYSDOL due to procurement processes and will be submitted to the NYSDOL for their records.

Amanda Karch discussed that Greene County will now be the Employer of Record for the Executive Director of Columbia-Greene Workforce Development Board. This contract began on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Amanda Karch and Guest, Christopher Nardone, Executive Director of NYATEP, presented a review of Federal updates. A brief outline of the structure of the Workforce Development System was discussed. Currently, there are no anticipated changes to WIOA, and while the Re-Authorization of the bill has been put on hold, this does not indicate a dissolution of the bill. WIOA Reauthorization was included in initial Federal Continuing Resolution, but was taken out for the final iteration. This does not indicate a dissolution of funding. The Re-Authorization of WIOA will be reviewed by the new Congress and may be presented in the coming year. WIOA has not been authorized, since 2019 and this means that it must go before the federal Appropriations committee for funding approval annually. A reauthorization will adjust the regulations under the law. The current reauthorization proposal outlines that 50% of funds would be required to go to training. I

Rebecca Preusser presented an update on the One-Stop Career Center. An office in the Career Center has been designated as a community shared space. Rebecca is working with local businesses and agencies to allow them to utilize the office for meetings, interviews, and other needs.

Rebecca Preusser also discussed an update to the processes and operations for data collection in the Career Center. Comprehensive collaboration with the staff of the NYSDOL will enable the WIO to track and record every customer who enters the Center for service.

Next Meeting: April 15<sup>th</sup>

Meeting End: 9:32 am

