

Workforce Development Board of Columbia and Greene Counties

Workforce Development Board Meeting-April 15h, 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

The meeting opened at 8:30 am with roll call.

Present: Aimee Skiff, Arica Cooper, Florence Lorenz, James Hannahs, Jamie Budai, Chris Brown, John Rutkey, Kathryn Nelson, Lisa Thomas, Nicole Frisbee, Patrick Brown, Rachel Puckett, Scott Brazie, Susan Sommers Evens

Excused: Blake Garrison, Joe Wolodkevich, Laura Becker, Mark Fingar, Michael Torchia, Mike Veeder, Peggy Moon, Dr. Jim Niedermier, Dr. Victoria Walsh

Introduction of guests: Dr. Carlee Drummer, President, Columbia Greene Community College, Emma Cohen, NYSDOL, Robert Davis, Herrington's

John Rutkey welcomed new members with the announcements of the appointments 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, and the pending appointment of Robert Davis, Location Manager, Chatham Herrington's as a Business partner.

Member Updates:

Florence Lorenz reminded the Board that Community Action of Greene County provides tax preparation assistance to residents.

Susan Sommers-Evens discussed that Windham Mountain Club is open to the public for golf.

Columbia County Economic Development Update:

Chris Brown spoke about the Community Land Trust (non-profit) and updates on the Land Bank in Columbia County.

Greene County Economic Development Update:

James Hannahs spoke about a potential upcoming private/public investment in Cementon, NY for development.

System Updates:

John Rutkey and Amanda Karch discussed upcoming changes to the Columbia Greene Workforce Development system agreements. An update on the PY24 budget and funding levels was presented. Due to an unanticipated reduction in funding from the initial projected levels with the

NOA that was distributed in November 2024, a review of costs is being completed. This reduction as left a deficit in funding for the end of PY24, and we are working with our Fiscal Agent and the Career Center to mitigate the impact.

Columbia-Greene Community College currently partners with the system as the One-Stop System Operator and is the Fiscal Agent and subrecipient of the grant as designated by Greene County. CGCC has expressed that they wish to discontinue all agreements, concluding June 30th, 2025. Due to this timeline, the Board will be working with the Counties, the NYSDOL, and the College to determine the most effective way forward. Multiple considerations for operations will be discussed, and we hope to work through this transition with minimal impact to the service provided to our customers and necessitated under WIOA. John Rutkey thanked the College for their historical partnership and expressed the Board's intention to continue working with CGCC on programmatic initiatives. As this is a situation in flux, the Board leadership will provide updates as they become available.

John Rutkey and Amanda Karch spoke about new processes for budget development and management through PY25, with the development of a Budget working group. All interested Board members, please reach out. Once the Budget is developed, work will continue to formulate a Policy and Governance Committee to oversee the editing and updating to the By-Laws. Continued discussions for additional committees will continue, (i.e., Business Services, Emerging Workforce) as the WDB develops its strategic initiatives for the coming program year.

Amanda Karch gave an update on the PY 23 Program Review. The Program Review was completed without any formal findings and the Board Director was encouraged to hear that the NYSDOL Program Monitor said that it was the "easiest review in 20 years." The staff of the Career Center should be recognized for all their continued, effective, and beneficial work.

Career Center Update:

Rebecca Preusser updated the Board on the GED Testing site and exams. 100 exams have been scheduled, with 65 delivered.

The One-Stop Career Center will be hosting a series of mini-job fairs, to be held in at Columbia-Greene Community College. Any interested businesses, please reach out.

Recruitment has started in Columbia and Greene Counties for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

The Columbia-Greene Workforce NY website will be going through an update. Partnership with KathodeRay Media has started to expand the website and provide timely updates to material.

Next Meeting-June 17th, 2025 at 8:30 am

Meeting ended: 9:35 am