

# Workforce Development Board of Columbia & Greene Counties

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

## Meeting Notes

**February 6th, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m. @ CGCC PAC Room 614 with virtual option**

Meeting minutes will be posted to [www.columbiagreeneetworks.org](http://www.columbiagreeneetworks.org).

## WELCOME

Chair, Mike Veeder/Chris Nardone

The meeting opened at 4:30 with roll call.

**Present:** Scott Brazie\*, Patrick Brown\*, James Hannahs\*, Ann Marie O'Hanlon\*, Rachel Puckett, Vice Chair John Rutkey\*, Stephanie Schleuderer, Brya Scali\*, Jamie Budai, Jackie Fitzgerald, Blake Garrison, Peggy Moon, Aimee Skiff, Amanda Karch

\* = Zoom

**Guests:** Jeanette O'Neil (WIO- Adult and DW Services), Patrick Corrigan

**Excused:** Chair Mike Veeder, Susan Sommers Evans, Laura Becker, Aimee Skiff, Deb Tuttle, Michele Troy-Ryder, Kristina Vaselewski, Guy Hughes Jr., Jessica Gabrial, Kathy Nelson, Lisa Thomas, Joe Wolodkevich, Jackie Fitzgerald, Mark Fingar, Florence Ohle, Micheal Torchia,

New member welcomed: Amanda Karch appointed 1/22/24, Patrick Corrigan (Appointment pending)

With 14 Board members in attendance, a quorum was not available.

## WELCOME

Mike Veeder, Chair/Chris Nardone

Roll Call

## ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mike Veeder, Chair/Chris Nardone

**With no quorum there were no acceptance of minutes**

## MEMBERSHIP-Board Update

Chris Nardone WDB Dir.

- Welcome new members –
  - ❖ Amand Karch, CGCC
  - ❖ Patrick Corrigan Questar III (Appointment Pending)

## POLICY UPDATE

Chris Nardone Interim WDB Dir.

# Workforce Development Board of Columbia & Greene Counties

- Equipment policy
  - ❖ The updates to the equipment management policy were reviewed.
    - Items with a value greater than \$1000 will be tracked and inventoried
    - Center Director will be responsible for maintaining inventory tracking and will review and update annually.

## **Center Operations Update**

Amanda Karch, Center director

- HR roundtable-leveraging AI to increase employee productivity
  - ❖ Scheduled for March 2024
  - ❖ Will be open to businesses in Columbia and Greene Counties
- Job and Career Fairs
  - ❖ The WDB was asked for input on the value of job fairs and if they thought Job Fairs were a valuable use of resources, or if there were better ways for the center to connect businesses with job seekers
    - Jaimie Budai said her organization attends but rarely if ever find employees from Job Fairs
    - Racheal Puckett said she no longer attends Job Fairs because there is very little return on the investment,
  - ❖ The Board agreed that Job fairs don't have the value they once did and there are better uses for resources
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Disability Employment Summit
  - ❖ May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 there will be a Disability Employment Summit to bring together Disability Service and Workforce Development professionals and leaders to discuss How we can collectively increase access to employment for people experiencing disabilities
- Economic State of the Counties
  - ❖ On November 3<sup>rd</sup> this event featured Greene and Columbia EDCs and the WDB Director to talk to local business leaders about the state of the counties. The event was well attended with 60 attendees, a follow up will be scheduled in the spring to maintain momentum

## **WORKFORCE OFFICE-Board Update**

Chris Nardone, WDB Director

- Budget Report
  - Budget summary was reviewed for PY23 with explanations about funding streams and fund transfers
- Business advisory committee
  - In an effort to better serve businesses and ensure training and services are targeted to business needs a business advisory committee will be assembled. Businesses from both counties will be asked to engage in conversation and advise to the board and the center on the types of credentials and the needs of the business community
- Number of customers served at the center
  - 406 customers have come to the career center in person so far this program year
- Apprenticeships
  - SUNY and NYSDOL have been engaged to see how the WDB can assist in the development of registered apprenticeships in the counties. A round table event is being scheduled so businesses can have an opportunity to speak with registered apprenticeship experts.

# Workforce Development Board of Columbia & Greene Counties

- Recovery Friendly Workplaces
  - The CGWDB is doing research on the best way to support businesses in becoming Recovery Friendly Workplaces. The recovery community in our area has special difficulty finding jobs that pay a living wage, and a partnership with businesses willing to engage and hire employees in recovery from substance use disorders will provide opportunities for people and businesses.
- Greene County Office
  - The CG WDB will explore an office in Greene County to better serve the residents of Greene County.
  - We will be exploring possible sites and organizations that are willing to partner or host the Career Center.
  - Cairo is another option that is somewhat centrally located

## **COMPLIANCE UPDATE**

Chris Nardone Interim WDB Dir.

- Columbia Greene MOU- returned to NYSDOL after updates

## **Local Business/Organization Updates**

Board Members

## **Good and Welfare**

**Next Board Meeting: April 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 at Columbia Greene Community College with Zoom Option**

## *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