

Workforce Development Board of Columbia and Greene Counties

Workforce Development Board Meeting-September 17th, 2024, 4:30 pm

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: John Rutkey, Chair

The meeting opened at 4:30 pm with roll call

Present: Aimee Skiff, Blake Garrison, Florence Lorenz, James Hannahs, Jamie Budai, Joe Wolodkevich, John Rutkey, Kathryn Nelson, Lisa Thomas, Michael Torchia, Patrick Brown, Peggy Moon, Rachel Puckett, Susan Sommers-Evens

Excused: Arica Cooper, Brya Scali, Jessica Gabriel, Mark Fingar, Michele Troy-Ryder, Mike Veeder, Nicole Bliss, Scott Brazie

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

John Rutkey, Chair explained that Good and Welfare will be moved to the beginning of the meetings.

- Introduction of Amanda Karch, new Executive Director for the Workforce Development Board
- Introduction and welcome to Dr. Victoria Walsh who will be the new Higher Education representative from C-GCC, replacing Amanda Karch. Dr. Walsh will be officially appointed at the upcoming Columbia County Board of Supervisors meeting and the Greene County Legislature Meeting.

Workforce Office Career Center Update, Rebecca Preusser, Assistant Director, Amanda Karch, Board Director

- Rebecca Preusser introduced youth involved in the Summer Youth Employment program and discussed the successful outcomes of this summer's program. Youth speakers talked about their positive experiences and the benefit the program had on them. Summer Youth Employment employers also spoke about the benefit of working with the program.
- Rebecca Preusser gave an update on GED testing and Out of School Youth numbers and completions.
- Amanda Karch presented information about an upcoming partnership with Can Code Communities and Columbia Reentry to provide digital literacy training to justice impacted individuals in the service area. The contract for this training was up for vote but could not pass without a quorum.

Resolutions for Can Code Communities Contract and Approval of the 14 Youth Elements for WIOA could not be put forward due to lack of quorum.

System Updates, John Rutkey, Chair and Amanda Karch, Board Director

- Amanda Karch announced that there will be a WIOA and system training for community partners, WDB members, and WD professionals on November 5th, 2024, and training for WDB members on November 6th. This training will be done in partnership with the Capital Region Workforce Development Board and will include training by the CEO of the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) and the Executive Director of the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP). More information to come.
- John Rutkey presented upcoming initiatives, goals, and plans for the WDB. John proposed moving to a 6 meeting/year schedule as opposed to 5. Meetings will be 1 hour instead of 2. Also proposed was changing the time of the meetings to 8:30 am, instead of 4:30 pm. All members in attendance agreed.
- John Ruteky spoke about changing the WDB Committees and committee structure to ensure more investment from Board members. This will be an on-going initiative and the training event in November will help to lay groundwork for education about the system. A potential survey was discussed.
- Amanda Karch discussed setting up visits to each organization represented on the WDB to learn more about their goals and what they do. This will start at the beginning of the year.
- Amanda Karch gave an update on the Career Center and Operational Structure, an Interim Director has not been appointed, but that process has started with the Center Operator. The Board will be updated once this occurs.

Compliance Update

- All WDB members must sign an updated Conflict of Interest Statement—if attending virtually, please send it by email.

Greene County Economic Development Update—James Hannahs

- The EPA awarded Greene County a \$1.5 million Brownsfield Coalition Assessment Grant which will focus on assessing potentially contaminated sites in the area for future redevelopment.
- GCED and the CG Workforce System have discussed starting an assessment of our workforce and overview to assist in collaboration and planning for the Economic Development opportunities coming to the service area.

Next Meeting—November 19th at 4:30 pm

Meeting Ended 5:24 pm