

Columbia-Greene Workforce Development Board Meeting
December 11th, 2025

The meeting opened at 8:35 am with roll call.

Present: Aimee Skiff, Blake Garrison, Chris Brown, Florence Lorenz, Kathryn Nelson, Lisa Thomas, Mike Veeder, Patrick Brown, Peggy Moon, Rachel Puckett, Susan Sommers Evens, Scott Brazie

Excused: Arica Cooper, Jamie Budai, Michael Torchia, Robert Davis, Mark Fingar, Victoria Walsh, John Rutkey, James Hannahs, Nicole Frisbee

Guests: Rebecca Preusser, CG Workforce Career Center (CGCC), Holly Wanek, WDB Contractor-SCION, Catherine Carlson, DreamLink Connector, Madeline Proper, DreamLink Navigator, Carol Piechnik, Business Relations Specialist, ACCES-VR

ACCESS-VR, Max Dydynski, Field Representative, Congressman Josh Riley

With 12 members present, a quorum was met.

Rachel Puckett opened the meeting with role call.

Introduction of Catherine Carlson, DreamLink Connector and Madeline Proper, DreamLink Navigator.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: November 5th, 2025, Full Board Meeting

Motion to Accept: Susan Sommers Evens

Second: Peggy Moon

12 votes: Yes

0 Votes: No

Motion Passed

Rachel Puckett and Amanda Karch presented Resolutions PY25-07, PY25-08 with discussion and votes.

- Authorization to Release the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a One-Stop Service Provider for Program Year 2026
 - Resolution PY25-07
- Authorization for the Consolidation and Merger of the Columbia-Greene Local Workforce Development Area and the Capital Region Local Workforce Development Area
 - Resolution PY25-08

Rachel Puckett presented Resolution PY25-07, Authorization to Release the Request for Proposals for a One-Stop Service Provider for Program Year 26.

Motion to Accept: Florence Lorenz

Second: Blake Garrison

12 Votes: Yes

0 Votes: No

Motion Passed

Amanda Karch and Rachel Puckett presented and discussed Resolution PY25-08, Authorization for the Consolidation and Merger of the Columbia-Greene Local Workforce Development Area and the Capital Region Local Workforce Development Area.

Motion to Accept: Patrick Brown

Second: Florence Lorenz

12 Votes: Yes

0 Votes: No

Motion Passed

System Updates, Rachel Puckett, Vice Chair and Amanda Karch, Board Director

Amanda Karch and Rachel Puckett discussed changes to the Fiscal Agent staffing. Due to this change, reconciliation of the PY24 and PY25 funding levels and PY25 Budget Amendment and transfer of DW to Adult funds discussed at the last WDB meeting have been on hold through the transition. Additionally, a technical error in the FA's internal system has brought more information to the WDB and there will be a reconciliation of around \$90k from PY24/25 that will need to be adjusted into the current budget. Discussion on the implications of this error was brought up by WDB members and concerns regarding service and staff capacity impacts were addressed.

Amanda Karch spoke about the upcoming release of the RFP for a One-Stop Service Provider on January 5th, 2026. All WDB interested in serving on a committee to review proposals, please contact the ED directly. The review process will begin on February 2nd, and the committee will provide the full WDB with a recommendation at the March 4th WDB meeting.

Amanda Karch told the WDB that the PY24 Fiscal Audit is upcoming and PY24 Program audit is in process.

The Recovery Ready Workplace event had 40 attendees, and the John Bagyi HR Roundtable had 25 attendees. An event in collaboration with ReEntry Columbia and the Columbia-Greene Addiction Coalition focusing on individuals impacted by the justice system is in process of being planned for January 2026.

Meeting ended: 9:30 am