Minutes to Partner Meeting

September 12, 2024

Attendees: B. Rice, D. Martinez, P. Stovall, T. Porter, D. Jablonski, L. Kennedy-Taylor

JBM reviewed the highlights of the OSSO report.

**Program Year 2023 Quarter 4 (PY23Q4) Data (4/1/2024 – 6/30/2024)**

**THE PERFORMANCE FOR THIS PAST YEAR WAS STELLAR.**

11 new trainees for Classroom Training and 11 new for On-the-Job Training, which is in line with expectations and beyond.

Enrollments for Youth (11) and OJT (11) were lower than usual due to spending all of the money allocated for training, which is the goal.

For the entire Program Year for Youth, the goal was 75 youth enrolled. The actual number was 79 enrolled, so this too has exceeded expectations.

For Classroom Training, there were 140 students sponsored! This may be a record for the local area as to the number of people trained in one year.

Niagara received incentive funds from NYSDOL for training and training-related supportive services because the local are met or exceeded its goals. These funds will be used in Program Year 2024 for training.

On-the-Job Training has 23 participants enrolled in the program in PY2023, which is a great number. There were only two new OJT enrollments in the final quarter due to fully expending the funds allocated for training.

**ADA Presentation**: Dennis Martinez mentioned an upcoming presentation on Americans with Disabilities Act service animal accommodations. The WDB Inclusion Committee is organizing this free event, to be held virtually on November 6, 2024 via zoom at 8:30 to 10 a.m. Contact Bonnie Rice Bonnie.Rice@niagaracounty.com or Dennis Martinez at Dennis.Martiniez@nysed.gov for sign up and details. Dogs as we typically know about and miniature horses are among those protected under the law.

Presenter is from the Northeast ADA Center from Cornell University. Employers really need to understand this. Being an HR Consultant to a variety of companies/organizations, this question of what they must do to comply comes up frequently. This session can help us all more fully understand guidelines to follow for compliance.

**Input from the group:**

**Dennis Martinez**

* National Disability Employment Awareness Month: This honors contributions that individuals make to the labor force. Recognizes businesses who hire people with disabilities. October 10 luncheon, 12:30 to 3:00pm, at Tewksbury Lodge 249 Ohio Street in Buffalo. There is a cost of $25.00 to attend. Event is coordinated by WNY employment consortium. Emcee will be MaryAlice Demler.
* Award nominee and winner from Niagara County is NYS Parks Department Tuscarora State Park;
* If you want to attend to see them receive this award, let Dennis Martinez know.

**Tianna Porter**

* Tianna has recently been assigned to the position of Economic Empowerment Director replacing Colleen Casale who moved to another position.

Updates:

* Focus is reaching out to Native American client base; if you know of anyone who they can help please refer them to the organization. Tianna can be reached at: tporter@nacswny.org
* They can help with supportive services and co-enrollment with other grants.
* Big event coming up: Special Initiative Department is holding an event themed Every Child Matters; Monday September 30 at Lockport High School, 5:30 pm. This event centers around the boarding school experience. Dinner, viewing of local documentary “Unseen Tears”, also included is a survivors panel and discussion followed by a social dance. This event is open to anyone!
* Another big event: Golf tournament coming up, Saturday Oct 5, 2024, large fundraisers. Tianna happy to forward more information email at: tporter@nacswny.org
* A lot of open positions in the organization as well. Bonnie mentioned that open positions can be sent to Career Center by letting her know.
* More information coming to JBM to share with Partners.

**Patricia Stovall**

* Announced all nine states received awards and refunding by WIOA will be in place; slight increase in funds for NY, VT, and OH.
* Pathstone is partnering with Economic Development department to be doing more things in Lockport.
* Staff from Pathstone are out in the Lockport/Niagara County area to distribute USDA cards.
* Also this organization will be increasing staff in Lockport as well. Looking for a bilingual person if anyone knows of anyone.
* Based on the increase in funds, there are opportunities to expand the territory.
* They are now also seeking a bilingual board member for NY at this time.
* They served 389 children and 285 adults – representing 279 families served.
* They also have a grant for migrant assistance for Upstate NY that is in effect.
* Staff will be traveling to the national conference this month to have a discussion with DOL regarding the housing grant they used to have. Housing is extremely important and needed.
* To date Cornell provided $9000.00 for farm youth. Some additional non-restricted funds are being added to give up to 15 grants throughout the state.
* Regarding bilingual need: Bonnie mentioned to purchase Time Kettle ear buds for language translation which can be done using a cell phone.

**Lakisha Kennedy-Taylor**

* Saturday, September 14, 2024 the Housing Authority is having a community day, free to all. Food trucks, ice cream trucks, free haircuts, free back packs, etc. A lot to do! Generally there are 1,300 people who attend. Event takes place at: Highland Avenue/block party style.
* October, job fair at the Doris Jones Resource Center. Specific details will be sent out to a variety of partners and posted at several locations. Generally 20 vendors and posted throughout the community.
* Niagara Falls Housing Authority is sponsoring Pharmacy Tech and Phlebotomy classes; paying for the classes, books and $250 incentive upon graduation. Residents or anyone from Niagara County can apply. Training is being done through SUNY Niagara. Laptops are available for a small fee.

**Bonnie Rice**

* October 16, in-person outdoor job fair at Oppenheim Park. Businesses with openings can consider getting involved. Free to businesses that want to participate. The last job fair had 65 businesses and 190 job seekers, it is a well-attended event.
* **Dream It Do It** is now established in Niagara County. Go to: <https://didiwny.com/> This is focused on connecting with middle and high school students to allow them to learn the types of jobs that are lucrative and available in manufacturing. This group also set up a closed social media system online for youth to engage with one another for connections and mentorship.

Thank you all for such active, informative sharing! Hope to see more of you next time as this type of opportunity is ideal for sharing!

Our next meeting is November 14, 2024, 9:30 am on google meet.