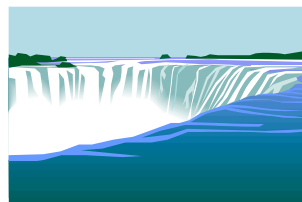


**Niagara County Workforce Development Group**  
**TEAMS Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 11, 2025 @ 9 a.m. VIRTUAL**  
**Notes/Minutes**



Item	Result
Welcome/ Introductions	Dennis M., Mike K., Joe B., Cathy S., Bonnie R., Kate M.
<b>REPORTS</b> Alphabet soup	Information in <i>Italics</i> is taken from my meeting notes.
Mike K. Niagara County Employment & Training	<p><b>7 Active OJTs</b> - no new OJTs being taken on at this time:  Fabricator at An-Cor Industrial Plastics.  Envelope Printer Operator at Matrix Imaging Solutions.  2 CNCs at Taber Industries, and 1 Production Planner.  Welder at Niagara Industrial Mechanical.  Apprentice Carpenter at Knabuilders.</p> <p><b>Renewable Energy Training Initiative (RETI) active OJTs:</b>  2 Lithium-ion battery assemblers at Viridi Parente.  (Viridi has indicated that they will be hiring 2-3 more people in the next few weeks).  1 at C&amp;R Housing – Employee who works in weatherization will be trained as an Energy Auditor.  A number of companies have returned RETI paperwork, including Vastola Heating and Cooling in Orchard Park. They do a lot with heat pumps, high efficiency furnaces, smart thermostats, ductless mini splits, etc.</p>
Bonnie R.- Workforce Development Board	<p>WIOA funding down 11% -diversify funding sources through other grants and programs to help fill in the gaps in services.</p> <p>There has been an increase in business closures in 2025, with 19 closures so far this year. Closures are due to relocations, trade tariffs, and retirement of business owners. For example, Nuttall Gear's parent company is consolidating operations at another location and moving the local plant to another state.</p> <p>Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS) is leading regional implementation of the 1115 Waiver NYS Department of Health Career Pathways Training (CPT) Program across Western New York, the Finger Lakes, and part of the Southern Tier. The CPT Program provides a powerful opportunity through tuition and educational expense support for individuals to launch or advance careers in health, behavioral health, and social care – while supporting healthcare</p>

	<p>employers by addressing workforce shortages and expanding access to care.</p> <p>Kevin Minnick is running this grant in Niagara County which pays for full tuition/books for careers in health as mentioned above.</p> <p>Summer Youth- Has gained a bit in funding. Last year we supported 110 youth in 30 to 40 worksites across the county.</p> <p>The recent Oppenheim Park Job fair was with almost full participation of registered employers and over 300 estimated job seekers. Large turn out may be due to layoffs in the area.</p>
Joe B., NYSDOL	<p>Consolidated Funding Application training will be held today. Hopefully it will make the process clearer.</p> <p>It was mentioned that NYS is extremely slow in making grant payments, sometimes as much as 12 months late.</p>
Kate Murphy-SUNY Niagara	<p>SUNY Reconnect- provides FREE associate degrees for adult learners ages 25-55 in certain careers.</p> <p>High-Demand Fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced manufacturing.</li> <li>• Nursing and allied health.</li> <li>• Engineering.</li> <li>• Technology, cybersecurity, and AI.</li> <li>• Green jobs.</li> <li>• Pathways to teaching in shortage areas.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://sunyniagara.edu/freecc/">https://sunyniagara.edu/freecc/</a></p>
Cathie S.-NCCED	<p>Cathie is replacing Mike Casale as our rep. from Niagara County Center for Economic Development. Asks Bonnie her opinion on the 19 WARN notices, why are businesses closing? Is it tariffs, consolidations, retirements, moves, what?</p> <p>There are all kinds of reasons listed; many are consolidations and moves but some reasons are not disclosed.</p>
ACCES-VR Dennis M	<p><b>Student Career Exploration Fair</b> - It's On again at the ON BOCES conference center for HS students with disabilities in grades 9-12 in Niagara and Orleans Counties on October 15. We hope to have a variety of displays, talks and demos related to various occupations, including the trades, manufacturing and health care indoors and outdoors. If you know of a business that can do a demo or provide some other kind of hands on experience about an occupation, please make Dennis aware.</p>

	<p><b>NDEAM- National Disability Employment Awareness Month</b>  Our Awards luncheon will be October 9 at the Tewksbury Lodge in Buffalo, \$35. Seven companies have been nominated. Our Guest speaker is Katie Geise, Executive Director Chautauqua Workforce Investment Board, Inc.</p> <p><b>Disability Pride Festival- Buffalo RiverWorks</b>  359 Ganson Street Buffalo, NY 14203, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., July 26. Celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the ADA. A day filled with celebration, empowerment, and fun! This event is all about embracing and honoring the diverse abilities within our community.</p>
,NEXT MEETING	NEXT MEETING –TEAMS on <b>JULY 9, 2025, via TEAMS</b>