



Minutes for Workforce Partner Meeting June 6, 2024

Present: B. Rice; D. Jablonski; M. Taylor; P. Stovall; B. Bunker; L. Kennedy-Taylor; K. Zenquiz Santiago; J. Sullivan; B. Michel; J. Brown-Miller.

JBM presented the highlights of the OSSO report: WIOA Youth

- They met the goal for enrollments (was 75 but they already served 77 before the last quarter)
- Performance was beyond what was planned and more than intended

CRT- Classroom Training

- A lot of success here
- There are a variety of classes as indicated in the report
- Every dollar was expended which is ideal b/c it signals that money was focused on the right things, job seekers and businesses and ultimately they had to cut funding;
- All measures were met, good progress on new measures; as a result, \$200,000 in performance incentive funds were received from NYS to use for Adult/Dislocated Worker training and training-related supportive services
- This was the first time to fully expend training funds, so KUDOS to all

OJT – On the Job Training

- As you can see there are a variety of companies being served as indicated in the report;
- They spent as much as budgeted for the year which is the goal so again, good work here;





- Overall they are meeting or exceeding all performance measures for all areas, providing everything the state wants and more.

Bonnie reported:

Incentive/Inclusion committee

- DEI: What How Why remote workshops/panels continue, with Business partners as presenters or panelists;
- Planning in October, first ever career exploration event to provide high school kids with disabilities, the opportunity to open their eyes to various careers; this is hands-on and demonstrations experience;
- Any employers interested contact Bonnie Rice;
- Workforce Development Institute – there are dollars for the child care scholarship program; if you know of any individuals who may qualify, they can apply for the grant; visit: wdiny.org
- Flyer to follow

WIOA Youth Program/Youth GVP Grant/YEP-SYEP Grant Updates –

- Three youth grants: WIOA; NYS GVP; and YEP-SYEP, which creates a year-round NYS TANF program – all three grants being utilized by Don's team and exceeding expectations.
- WIOA Youth: 75 planned enrollments, 89 served;
- GVP: 50 planned youth enrollments; 57 served, grant ended 3/31/24;
- YEP: Since 1/1/24, 92 youth in work experiences;
- Anyone who wants to be a worksite let Bonnie know.

Rob LeTeste of Invest Buffalo Niagara

- Provides future planning for businesses and County-level data on employers, wages, etc.





- Instrumental in helping local employers to hire for grants, or employment data for planning wage increases;
- Matching county talent to opportunities

Partner input:

Jane Sullivan

- Kailey Zenquiz Santiago is the new vocational rehab counselor covering Niagara County for NYS Commission for the Blind
- Working to be at the outstation at the career center
- Looking for more referrals;
- Offering Vision sensitivity training at no charge for agencies, businesses, organizations and all very interactive; in this training one will learn about the commission, able to participate and experience what those with legal blindness deal with; learn to be human guides; use to mobility canes; learn about free apps on technology available; try braille writers etc;
- Anyone interested, there are a team of people who can provide the training so reach out to Jane Sullivan at jane.sullivan@ocfs.ny.gov

Patricia Stovall update:

- Pathstone still has 500 USDA gift cards available to farm workers who worked even one day during September 2020 to May 2023; this is a \$600 one time card;
- Available in Lockport or come wherever they need to be;
- Farmer Youth Funds – serve youth creating summer employment for farm work; able to provide work experiences, 100% salary paid; \$15.00/hour while working and learning new skills.





Contact: Mariah Burris 716-201-1086 or email:
mburris@pathstone.org or send Patricia an email at:
pstovall@pathstone.org

Brian Michel update

- New President at SUNY Niagara
- Official first day is Fourth of July week;
- Working through standing training
- Student volumes are up
- Workforce performing significantly better than a year ago
- Currently working on grant through National Science Foundation
- NYSED funding -Seeking funding for industrial processes and replacing or supplementing equipment; Important to train on older and new equipment to meet business reality and needs;
- In time looking for letters of support from larger manufacturers who are well known nationally when seeking support for future project grants;
- If anyone wants to work with them for funding, let him know;
- Cobots are being sought out and SUNY Niagara will be one of the only facilities that offer extensive hands on instruction in this discipline;

Contact: bmicHEL@niagaracc.suny.edu

Our next meeting is September 12, 9:30 am; Google meet

