



Workforce Development Board of Sullivan, Inc.

Robert Green, Chair
Laura Quigley, Executive Director

Minutes May 11, 2021 - Full Board Meeting

Members Attending: Robert Green- Chairman, Jacob Lerner – Vice Chairman, Dory Alport-Treasurer, Denise Burgio, Olga Campos, Dawn Ciorari, Stacy Cohen, John Emminger, Loreen Gebelein, Christine Knickerbocker, Tara Kammarada, Peggy Marchese, Angela Patella, Jay Quaintance, Chris Schmidt, Susan Schmitt, Claire Taggart, Marcia Valdes, Donna Willi.

Others Attending: Laura Quigley- WDB/ Executive Director, Klu Padu- Sullivan County Community College, Sharon Ferber- Community Resources/Administrative Assistant, Sue Bahrenberg – Monticello High School National Academy of Finance.

This is a ZOOM meeting called to order at 8:05am.

Board Business:

1. Approval of February 9, 2021 minutes.
Motion: Tara Kammarada
Second: Donna Willi

2. Director's Report – Laura Quigley
Highlights:

Jennifer Wrange has joined SUNY Sullivan as the Dean of Student Success and Workforce Development. We look forward to working with her in the future.

USDOL has issued a Dislocated Worker Disaster Recovery Grant. NYSDOL has received a \$12M grant, a portion of which (approx. \$5M) was initially designated for hiring contact tracers in local areas. However, most areas had already hired enough contact tracers. The funds have redirected allow local areas to submit plans to temporarily hire dislocated workers to help with COVID vaccines efforts. Though it may prove challenging to hire at this time, we will proceed in an effort to prepare for future employment needs.

Monticello Central School District and Orange Ulster BOCES have partnered to submit an application under WIOA Title II. Their plan will be to provide Adult Basic Education and Literacy Services and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education in Sullivan County. The classes will be held at the former Monticello Middle School which is now the Community Hub. However with the plans to return to the classrooms in September, space may not be available on a regular basis. We will be working with Orange Ulster BOCES to either find a new location or rearrange the schedule.

We are continuing work with SUNY Sullivan to launch a Certified Nursing program. There have been delays due to securing a clinical site. Infinite Care, the management company operating the Adult Care center has expressed an interest in hosting this program. Hopefully a meeting will be set up in the not too distant future to discuss plans to open this program.

NYSDOL has been very helpful in identifying the number of unemployed currently in Sullivan County. We have, with the assistance of John Emminger from NYSDOL, been acquiring the demographics regarding these people. As we have this data analyzed we can produce the information needed to assist with recruitment efforts prior to September when the Pandemic Unemployment ends. Jay Quaintance, SUNY offered that in an effort to help people re-engage with employment, there is a tax credit for employers that provide tuition assistance. This provides a tax credit for the employer and up to \$5200 to the employee for tuition assistance or to pay down existing student debt. This is a current program that has been extended to 2025.

3. Sue Bahrenburg- Monticello High School Academy of Finance was introduced. The program focuses on infusing work based projects into the courses. They start with teaching the students to create a resume and the interview process. They also provide summer internship programs. Students come to the employer ready to work. Often the employer and the intern develop a working relationship lasting throughout their school career. Please contact Sue at SBahrenburg@k12mcsd.net if you are interested in more information.
4. Susan Schmidt – Sullivan County BOCES was introduced. BOCES also has a variety of internships available on a broader scale. They have about 60 work based learning sites with local businesses. They have 15 Career and Technical education programs. The students are encouraged to find businesses that they are interested in working for as well as recommendations from the Advisory Boards of each of the education programs. BOCES provides the student with information on applying for Civil Service positions. Their current programs include Allied Health, Health Occupations I & II, Auto Body and Auto Tech, Broadcasting and Music Production, Construction Trades, Cosmetology, Culinary, Hospitality, Early Childhood, Innovative Design, Natural Resources, Public Safety & Welding. Employers interesting in speaking with graduates from BOCES can contact their Workplace Coordinator, Craig Smith or the BOCES Principal, Jeff Molusky.
5. Loreen Gebelein- Director, Center for Workplace was introduced and gave an update on Center for Workforce. CWD now has their own Facebook page. Incarcerated Youth education at the Jail started on April 28th. Virtual Career Readiness program has also started. Thru Bold Gold, they have started a Youth Digital Campaign. Summer Renaissance program is up and running as of May 25th. Summer Youth Employment is taking applications. They are looking for 60 to 70 youth. One of their new sites, Albany Can Code, is an IT program that will train in IT marketing. Loreen will be contacting all the Workforce Board businesses in the future to discuss your business needs. The third round of funding from the Opioid Grant is now available. Further information will be available on the website.

Mr. Green adjourned the meeting at 8:55am.

Motion: Stacey Cohen

Second: Olga Campos

All in favor – meeting adjourned.