

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board  
**YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board  
41 Lewis Street, Geneva, NY 14456  
Monday, March 5, 2012

**ATTENDANCE:** **Members:** Menzo Case, Chair, Colleen Combs, Pat Pavelsky, Brian Young, Sarah Rowe, Lori Greene, John Mueller  
**Staff:** Pat Gopen, Youth Systems Coordinator  
**Guests:** Angel Cook, Debbie Veltkamp, Cathy Jinks, Deb McGrimley, Bill Rotenberg, Valerie Douglas

**ABSENT:** **Members:** Karen Beals, Patty D'Amico, Brandon Mead, Jessica Bacher, Chris Edgar, Kathy Swartout, Johnny Robinson, Kathy Templar, Barb Delpriore, Peg Birmingham, Valerie Mallard, Chris Kear

**CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:** Mr. Case called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. Introductions of guest speakers and new Youth Council applicant Debbie Veltkamp (Job Corps) were made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from January 9, 2012 meeting approved. Motion to approve by Mr. Mueller, second by Ms. Combs. All in favor, motion carried.

**Guest Speaker:** Guest Speaker Valerie Douglas, Director of Counseling & RHY Services of the Center for Youth Services, Rochester provided statistics and information regarding the homeless youth problem and the temporary housing services the organization provides to Finger Lakes youth. Valerie provided information regarding the McKinney-Vento Act which allows for youth staying in temporary housing to continue their schooling in their home district. Info from the Empire State Coalition ([www.empirestatecoalition.org](http://www.empirestatecoalition.org)) suggests that there are an estimated 30,000 homeless youth in New York State. Few of these youth actually run away, most have family units that have fallen apart in one way or another. Many were in foster care and aged out with little or no continued guidance/support. Many youth in our employment and training programs do not have a fixed, adequate and regular nighttime residence which challenges their employment success.

**Guest Speaker Bill Rotenberg**, Advanced Manufacturing Career Navigator for FLWIB, presented The new, grant-funded program that will provide training opportunities at the 3 local community colleges; Finger Lakes, Genesee and Monroe Community Colleges for unemployed participants who take manufacturing related middle skills degree programs. The Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Project will assist nearly 300 area residents with their educational and support service expenses for these degree programs over a three year period.

**YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATE:**

- Ms. Gopen requested updated Conflict of Interest forms from those members who have not yet completed theirs.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Finger Lakes Healthcare Alliance Career Day at the FLCC Geneva campus was a great success on March 14. The event provided interactive healthcare career exploration opportunities to nearly 300 youth from 13 area high schools.

- Cathy Jinks, Youth Counselor from Wayne County Workforce Development, reported on a WIA Youth Trend Report that youth homelessness is an ongoing and increasing concern, in conjunction with the Guest Speaker's presentation on the subject. Continued discussion and information sharing ensued amongst those in attendance.
- Mr. Case reported that the Youth Council will be working with the FLWIB Marketing Committee to roll out their annual marketing campaign geared toward career exploration and career path development for K-12 youth.
- Ms. Gopen reported that youth staff from all four WIA contractors attended the NYATEP Youth Academy conference in Syracuse on March 6-7, 2012. The focus of this year's conference was Best Practices/ Don't Reinvent the Wheel as it applied to developing successful youth programs.

**SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

- A. Membership Committee; two new member reconciliations will be brought up for vote at the March FLWIB general meeting; Chastity Clarke and Debbie Veltkamp. The Marketing Committee will be meeting later in March to reassess any membership vacancies and develop a plan of action for filling them.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Adjournment at 5:20

**NEXT MEETING:** **Monday, May 7, 2012** in Conference Room B, Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, 41 Lewis Street, Geneva, 4:00-5:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pat Gopen, Youth Systems Coordinator