

YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board

41 Lewis Street, Geneva, NY 14456

Monday, January 6, 2014

ATTENDANCE: **Members:** Menzo Case, Eileen Rucinski, Erika Martin, Chris Edgar, John Donohue, Patty D'Amico, Betsy Russell-Orr, Michael Whirtley, Karina Anderson, Eric Israel, Jennie Erdle, Barbara Delpriore, Tim Bailey, Brian Young
Staff: Pat Gopen, Dinah Brennan
Guests: Marsha Foote, Loree Martin, Deb McGrimley, Melanie Hoyt (Ontario County Youth), Robert Coe

ABSENT: **Members:** Brandon Mead, Marisa Pennetta, Valerie Mallard, Chris Keear, Johnny Robinson, Tom Facer, Karen Beals, Christy Wentz, Kathy Templar

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm. Introductions were made of four, new YC members; Eric Israel, Jenny Erdle, Tim Bailey, and Michael Whirtley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Young motioned to approve the November minutes as written, seconded by Ms. Martin. All in favor, motion carried.

TREND ALERT: Ms. Hoyt presented a PowerPoint she created to recap the 2013 Ontario County Summer Youth Employment Program and outcomes. Ms. Foote narrated the presentation. Discussion was had regarding the ages of the Youth in the Summer Program. Ms. Foote noted there are mostly 15-16 year olds in the Ontario County program but that the program serves 14-21 year olds. Mr. Whirtley noted that Seneca County has many applications from 14-15 year olds because there are few employment opportunities elsewhere for youth that age. Ms. Foote mentioned that there is continuing need for additional worksites for the program.

Guest Speaker: Robert Coe, Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) presented on veterans' employment and training programs, as well as the Veterans' Priority of Service initiative. Mr. Coe noted that the skills veterans have acquired from the military make them great candidates for employment. Training and education benefits can be provided depending on the length of time with the military. Mr. Coe and another NYSDOL employee work with the local veterans outreach and provide veterans with the tools they need to become gainfully employed. Any questions please contact Mr. Coe at (315) 789-1771 ext. 106 or Robert.Coe@labor.ny.gov.

YOUTH COUNCIL 101: ORGANIZATIONAL CHART/ HANDBOOK: Ms. Gopen distributed the organizational chart defining where the Youth Council stands with the FLWIB organization. She also distributed and briefly reviewed the Youth Council By-Laws and the Membership Responsibilities. For copies of these documents please contact Ms. Gopen.

YOUTH PROGRAMS UPDATE:

- Ms. Gopen noted that the WIA Program Year 2013 (PY13) goals have gone up from the previous program year. New tools provided allow for the performance reports to be checked more often and in real time, rather than waiting a few months for the information. Youth program performance is improving and is on track.
- The TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) is not yet available and the NYS Dept. of Education has not announced when it will become available. The GED was discontinued as of 12/31/13, therefore students that are trying to acquire their High School Equivalency are in limbo between the two.

- **FAME** has an event at MCC on January 22nd from 4 – 6:30pm titled, “Driving a New National Skills Policy: Why Local Partnerships like FAME Make a Difference!” The guest speaker will be Andy VanKleunen from the National Skills Coalition. To register please go to http://www.nyfame.org/NationalSkillsPolicyEventJan22_2014.asp.
- Healthcare Career Day for the Finger Lakes area high schools will be held on March 19, 2014 at the FLCC Main Campus.
- An Educator/Employer panel discussion will be held Friday, April 11th for Finger Lakes Guidance Counselors. This will be the 4th panel of the series (previous industries represented were Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare, and IT/Computer Science), the April career field is yet to be determined.

Committee Updates

- Ms. Martin, chair of the membership committee, welcomed the new members to the Youth Council! Ms. Gopen noted that Karina Anderson was back with us while she is on break from SUNY Albany. Ms. Anderson discussed her first semester noting she is a double major in Political Science and English with a minor in Women’s Studies. She finished this semester with a 3.5 GPA and was the first freshman member of the college’s Student Government to hold a position of any kind; she was the Assistant Chief of Staff. She plans to travel to Washington D.C. soon. Ms. Anderson plans to attend Law School and credits the WIA Youth Program, the Finger Lakes Works staff and Youth Council membership for their continued support for her success.
- Mr. Edgar chair of the Performance & Evaluation committee noted that they met before today’s Youth Council meeting to discuss the RFP draft and progress. The committee is working on the final draft of the RFP and will have it ready by January 28, 2014. The RFP will be released on February 14th.

A round table discussion was held regarding various upcoming events and announcements.

- Mr. Whirtley inquired the effect of the state’s rise in minimum wage from \$7.25/hour to \$8.00/hour on our funding. Mr. Young noted that government employees are exempt from this new policy until it is a federal law. Mr. Young added that Ontario County decided to keep their wage at \$7.25 and that it is a county decision.
- Ms. Rucinski noted the FAME meeting on this Friday, January 10th at 8:00am will be a joint meeting for both the Pipeline and the Hiring/Training committees. There will be two speakers there to discuss updated labor laws, hiring minors as interns, and when to pay for internships. This will be held at the Technical Career Training Institute in Victor, NY next to the FLCC Victor Campus and all are welcome to attend.

Meeting Adjourned.

The next Youth Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2014 in Conference Room B, Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, 41 Lewis Street, Geneva, 4:00-5:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dinah Brennan
Executive Assistant, FLWIB.