

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
VETERANS OUTREACH MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Geneva Career Center (New York State Department of Labor)
70 Elizabeth Blackwell Street, Geneva, NY

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Andrea Badger, Chris Caughey, Michelle Coomber, Shelly Cogliandro, Karen Dean, Ed Hemminger, Mindy Laursen, Jeremy Marshall

Staff: Michael Woloson, Jennifer May

I. Introductions/Approval of the Minutes from March 8, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Caughey and seconded by Ms. Dean. All in favor, motion approved.

II. Numbers

The FLWIB Strategic Goal #4 states that the number of veterans receiving services is to be increased by twenty percent, from one hundred forty-four to one hundred seventy-nine. From July 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018, one hundred three veterans received services through the career centers. The committee discussed the many possible explanations for the low numbers, such as the overall low rate of unemployment. Also discussed were the reasons why veterans aren't self-identifying – not wanting to draw attention to themselves and trying to remove themselves from that period of their lives.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Woloson to compare the number of unemployed veterans in the Finger Lakes to the number in the state.

III. Job Fair – April 19

The FLX Career Fair saw one hundred job seekers, fifteen of those self-identified as a veteran. Four of the veterans reported that they received job fair information from the career centers and the others received information from various places such as the newspaper and the Veterans Outreach Center.

IV. Fort Drum Outreach/Upcoming Job Fair

Mr. Marshall will not be able to attend the Fort Drum event, but stated that he can help arrange transportation for others who wish to attend. REDCOM may also attend. Mr. Marshall's office, Ontario County Veterans Service Agency, is in need of a Service Officer. The position requires that the applicant must be a veteran.

V. New York Serves (follow up)

Mr. Woloson plans to have Rachel Volpe speak to the Finger Lakes Works Career Center Consortium regarding New York Serves. The Consortium would receive valuable and much needed information on what the program can provide for veterans.

VI. Other Business/Round Table

Ms. Badger reminded the committee of FLCC's Advanced Manufacturing Machinist and Mechatronics programs, as well as CNA, Hospitality and Kinesiology programs.

Mr. Hemminger spoke of the Veterans Health Administration ran suicide prevention hotline and the resource that it provides to veterans struggling with their mental health.

Ms. Cogliandro urged committee members to refer disabled veterans to ACCESS VR, where they would be able to receive more services.

Also, Laura Stradly will be offering financial counseling in Mr. Marshall's office; more information to come.

VII. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer May
Executive Assistant