

# FINGER LAKES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD PERFORMANCE & EVALUATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 8:30 am  
via Zoom

**Attendance:** Kathy Baker, Tom Facer, Lynn Freid, Michelle Jungermann, John Mueller, Julia Murphy, Rick Plympton, Mike Rusinko

**Staff:** Jennifer May, Karen Springmeier, Mike Woloson

**A motion to approve the minutes from October 27, 2020 was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Plympton. All in favor, motion carried.**

## **Purpose Statement**

**ACTION ITEM: Ms. May will send the revised Purpose Statement, along with minutes for this meeting to members of the committee.**

## **Dashboard**

Mr. Woloson reviewed the unemployment rates for November and compared them to those from October. In November, the Finger Lakes unemployment rate decreased from 5.2% in October to 4.6%. New York State saw an average of 8.1% unemployed and the U.S. 6.4%. Front door traffic increased in November, to 1,312 due to the number of remote contacts by career center staff being captured. Mr. Woloson also reviewed services utilized by participants so far in PY'20: 37 customers participated in classroom trainings and 17 in OJT. Additionally, website traffic to the career center sites and the WIB site rose from 2,426 to 2,650 users.

**ACTION ITEM: Mr. Woloson to send recent Initial Claims Report to committee to show actual number of people on UI.**

## **SkillUp Finger Lakes/Coursera/Future Skills Exchange Platform**

Mr. Woloson reviewed the User Summary, Training Summary and Content Summary for SkillUp, which covered July through December 2020.

Ms. Freid explained that Coursera is a self-contained learning management system, similar to SkillUp, but larger. NYSDOL has purchased licenses and is offering the service for free to job seekers in the state.

Ms. Freid also spoke of Future Skills Exchange, which is a non-accredited, hands on training program. Additionally, Credential Engine has over 9,000 offering and is available through partnership with the Workforce Development Institute.

**ACTION ITEM: Ms. Freid to send more information regarding Coursera, Future Skills Exchange and Credential Engine to committee.**

Ms. Springmeier spoke of the need to educate career center staff on all of the available programs so that they may better assist job seekers in choosing the right platform for them.

**ACTION ITEM: Addition to Committee Work Plan: comparing the available online learning platforms.**

## **One Stop Operator Update**

David Zorn, Executive Director of the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, has retired. Jay Gsell is serving as the Interim Executive Director. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021.

## **Work-Try-Out**

At the request of the Training Team, Mr. Woloson gathered information on the Work-Try-Out Program. He informed the committee that policies would have to be drafted to govern the program and a Request for Proposals from staffing companies would have to be released. The staffing company would place the job seeker, on their payroll, then the staffing company would ask the WIB for reimbursement. Ms. Springmeier suggested that staffing companies may not be necessary and this program could possibly be treated like Work Experience. County staff could place the job seeker, who would be paid directly by the county. The WIB could then reimburse the county. Ms. Springmeier recommended that the committee look into the program and determine if available funds would allow for an additional program. If so, the WIB and counties could work together on plan modifications and have the program available by July 1, 2021. She reiterated that funding for the program would come out of existing allocations.

**ACTION ITEM: Mr. Woloson will update the committee at the February meeting.**

**Cluster Update**

FAME - Mr. Plympton shared FAME is currently considering a virtual format for the next annual event. Ms. Springmeier has connected Melinda Mack of NYATEP with Michele Stolberg of FAME, as NYATEP's virtual annual event was such a success.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Springmeier to get an update regarding EdgeFactor and share with the committee.

**Other Business:**

Ms. Freid will fill the role of Executive Director of the WIB after the retirement of Ms. Springmeier. Ms. Springmeier and Ms. Freid will be working together for the next month to ensure a smooth transition. As Ms. Freid will be leading the WIB, a new chair of this committee is needed.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 22, 2020 8:30 a.m., via Zoom.**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rusinko and seconded by Mr. Plympton. All in favor, motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m.**

Submitted By: Jennifer May