

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, Conference Room B  
Via Zoom  
Friday, March 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members:** K. Bronson, J. Celso, J. Davis, S. Davis, S. Griffin, G. Maine, M. Manikowski, A. McGraw,  
R. Plympton, T. Sloane, M. Sykes, J. Vrabel

**Staff:** Lynn Freid, Michael Woloson, Jen May

**I. Benefits Calculator**

Mr. Davis reviewed information with the committee regarding a Benefits Calculator that is being developed by SUNY Brockport that will allow users to enter pertinent information and see both the amount of money that can be made with working outside the home and the benefits that would be available to them outside of employment.

Mr. Griffin believes the tool would be good for employers, as it would tell them how much they should be paying employees. Mr. Sykes stated that it would be more helpful if not for the current additional UI benefits. The group then discussed the challenges faced by employers in finding employees due to the pandemic and extended UI. Mr. Davis suggested that the more data and information that can be collected, the better decisions that can be made by all. Ms. Freid shared that she and Mr. Davis have discussed sharing this platform across all four counties, as it will allow opportunities to educate the entire community. Mr. Plympton reminded all that another benefit to working rather than UI is being able to contribute to one's retirement plan.

Ms. Freid suggested that a taskforce be created to plan how information collected from the calculator would be shared with the public and then the taskforce would present information to the full board and request approval for purchase of the tool. Mr. Plympton, Mr. Griffin and Mr. Sloane volunteered to sit on the taskforce.

**II. Economic Development Updates (State of the County – Impact from COVID-19)**

Yates County – Mr. Griffin stated that the county is still working on the same projects and most manufacturers are coming off record years. A couple of new businesses are opening in the county and the county is days away from announcing the additional of a new corporate park.

Seneca County – Ms. Davis reported that Seneca County is looking to open a new industry park and that they are noticing traction in solar and renewable energy, but the state has started cutting back on associated grants.

Wayne County – Ms. Bronson shared that the second round of deferment of loans is winding down and the county is seeing much development.

Ontario County – Mr. Manikowski stated that the county is seeing a response to understaffing issues by businesses in that they are moving toward automation. Demand for loans has increased in the county and businesses are going back and forth on solar plans because of the lack of grants.

**III. Workforce Development Updates**

Ontario County – Mr. Sykes – Business Services remains active in the county, with OJTs and incumbent worker training with small manufactures.

Wayne County – Mr. Celso – Both OJTs and ITAs are in high number for the county.

Yates County – Mr. Davis – Seasonal businesses in the county are hiring and Lisa Principio will be working with a solar company for OJTs.

**IV. FLWIB Update**

The NYSDOL virtual job fair will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Dave Phillips is stepping down as chair of FAME and a new chair is being sought. FAME scholarship applications are due at the end of April and the award will be given in September.

**Next meeting: Friday, June 11, 2021, via Zoom.**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Plympton and seconded by Mr. Sykes. All in favor, motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.**