

**Finger Lakes Workforce Development Board
One Stop Partner Meeting
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Monday March 29, 2021**

Zoom

Meeting Notes

Michael Woloson started the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

In attendance were:

Jay Gsell, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
Jenny Loewenstein, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
Michael Woloson, Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board
Lynn Fried, Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board
Colleen Casali, Native American Community Services
Julia Murphy, NYS DOL
Patricia Stovall- Lane, Pathstone
Ellen Wayne, Wayne County DDS
Charlene Higgins, Associates for Training and Development
Sally Ressue, Proaction Inc. (Yates and Steuben)
Shelly Cogliandro, ACCES-VR
Marion French, WXXI
Joseph Davis, Finger Lakes Works Yates County
Cathy Bailey, Ontario County DDS
Mary Branagan, Associates for Training and Development
Greg Maine, WFL BOCES
Amy Carreno, NYS Commission for the Blind
Todd Sloane, Finger Lakes Community College
John Vrabel, Finger Lakes Works Seneca County

Introductions

Everyone did a quick introduction.

Staff Development Session Update

Michael discussed re-planning a system wide career center staff training that was cancelled last year. Potential topics, utilizing zoom and the level of involvement from the DOL was discussed. It was suggested that the trainings be recorded for greater staff participation, to make the trainings open to those outside of career center staff to include ACCES-VR and others to build greater connections and to make sure the trainings are locally focused with targeted information. Working with the Finger Lakes Digital Inclusion Coalition was suggested especially around broadband and computer access.

Suggested topics for training sessions included:

- Partnership and co-enrollment
- Digital inclusion.

Michael will send out an email with potential times for a smaller subcommittee group to meet and develop action items that will be reported out at the next meeting. A survey will also be distributed to everyone about staff needs and potential topics to be presented.

Referral Update

Michael shared the referral tracking spread sheet from the start of the program year (July 1). There has been a very limited number of referrals through February. Michael reminded people to send him a monthly report and information.

Challenges with the referral system right now is that we aren't seeing a lot of people coming into the career centers and relying on phone and online resources which can be cumbersome to provide resources. DOL staff can't get the signature on the release, still providing the information but can't do a formal referral. They are still determining if there are ways they can do without it so they don't have to rely on cold referrals.

The referral form was distributed.

MOU Update

Michael sent the MOU to Albany for approval on March 29, 2021. Once it has been approved the MOU will be distributed to the signatories. DocuSign will be utilized for ease of collecting signatures. Each organization will receive the completed signed copy of the MOU document.

Round Table Discussion: How Covid has impacted your ability to meet your mission serving your clients?

Partners provided an overview of the challenges they have been facing and provided recommendations to what we as a group can do moving forward. Key themes emerged from this discussion:

1. Many organizations have seen a downturn in traffic to their centers, but are trying to continue outreach to their customers via email, texting and mailers. Many of the customers who are coming to centers are mandated customers.
2. The trainings the DOL has been doing have been really great but there is a question on how do we get all of the info to our customers who aren't coming into our centers?
3. Partners are finding some success in utilizing social media, YouTube, email and text message outreach.
4. Reminder: The business community is struggling. There are a lot of job openings available, especially as more things open up and seasonal positions become available.

Partner updates:

Finger Lakes Seneca County

- Has continued to see a decrease in traffic to the career centers, but a continued effort is being made to do outreach via email and texting. Customers are responding.
- Many of the customers who are coming to the centers and being served are the mandated customers.
- There has been a recent uptick of people coming to the centers due to the volunteer tax assistance program (VITA).

Native American Community Services

- Has had success in utilizing Facebook and other social media accounts to share information with clients and connect them to their organization.
- Funding is available to help pay off bursars office balances for college students.

Associates for Training and Development

- The senior program is actively recruiting and assigning seniors to both in person and remote positions.

- Currently are doing a lot of digital literacy trainings to help people become more marketable and competitive in today's job market.

ACCESS VR

- Currently they are providing all of their service just via zoom, and are utilizing an online orientation to help people connect with and apply for their services.

NYS Commission for the Blind

- They have been back into the office since September and have been seeing people both in their office and out in community.
- Have been getting a fair number of referrals but are seeing challenges with the placement services.
- Looking to engage the workforce more as things continue to open up.
- Interested in programs for training and placement.

Finger Lakes CC

- A lot of their programs have been in the hybrid model. Wanted to remind people of their robust course catalog of career oriented online programs for both professional development and certifications.
- They have seen an increase in enrollment in these online career-oriented programs.
- Some of the advanced manufacturing programs were suspended Covid19 regulations but that has been the only thing that has slowed down. Hoping to reopen the program in September.

WFL BOCES

- Adult literacy classes are open, but the site has been slow to rebound.
- Seeing some cross traffic from the career center.

Finger Lakes Works Yates County

- We are hopeful that once the majority of staff and the public are vaccinated, we can open back up fully.
- TANF programs are allowed to reach out to their mandated clients to see if they have internet access and devices to see if they can offer services. They have been meeting virtually with 5-6 mandated clients at a time to do job readiness workshops. However, they cannot hold clients accountable for attending their workshops, job search, or any other activities at this time (this is statewide not just us)

Wayne County DDS

- The workforce team is partnering with Wayne Behavioral Health and other community partners to open a vaccination clinic for their high-risk customers. They are currently calling their customers see if they are interested in the vaccine. They are hoping that as more of their customers are vaccinated, they will be more open and available to employment opportunities.

Has anyone received any employer feedback on vaccination policies? Lynn to follow up for possible discussion at our next meeting.

Reminder: The DOL is holding a regional job fair on April 15. Currently there are over 100 business signed up. Registration flyer was distributed.

Wrap Up and Next Meeting

The Next meeting will be June 7, 2021 at 10AM via zoom. This will be a joint meeting with our partners in the GLOW Region and Monroe County.