

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

Thursday, October 14, 2021
Via Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Jeremy Marshall, Phil Rouin, Michelle Coomber, Rick Plympton, and Zach Brooks

Staff: Lynn Freid, Michael Woloson, Andréa Badger

I. Introductions/Approval of the Minutes

Welcomed Andréa Badger to the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board as the new Director of Youth Services.

II. Career Center COVID-19 Update

Mr. Woloson reported that all career centers are open to the public except for the Geneva office. Most counties are again highly recommending and or mandating masks be worn both if vaccinated or non-vaccinated. Ms. Coomber shared that in-person meetings with veterans tend to be more effective in assisting veterans to better outcomes. Mr. Marshall and Mr. Rouin agreed. Ms. Coomber reported that Vietnam Vet she works with needs computer skills. Mr. Woloson indicated that the local libraries and the system provide in-person and online sessions to help people understand basic computer skills.

III. Podcast/Radio Program

The committee is still interested in a collaborative social media presence for veteran's and in order to do so will need to have consistency. Outside of a strategic effort for a full program, Ms. Freid suggested providing a connection between Mr. Marshall and J. Sinicropi to do a podcast/radio spot for Veteran's Day to provide information on services in the four-counties. Ms. Freid will send out an email to the volunteer workgroup to set up this activity for veteran's day; possibly discuss other outreach options.

IV. Fort Drum

The next in-person event at Ft. Drum is the first week in December (Mr. Marshall will provide the specific date. The previous Fort Drum outreach included Mr. Marshall, Ms. Erdle-Krampen, Mr. Rouin, and Livingston County Rep. Mr. Marshall discussed the topic of providing an entire Finger Lakes area table to show case what the region has to offer holistically to veterans. This would include four-county job listings, employers to attend, sell the Finger Lakes as a great place to live all-around. Mr. Rouin provided information on talking to those in attendance about education and services, helped to gain interest in the region and educational opportunities. Mr. Marshall stated that there is a quarterly table for transition services and all veteran's transitioning out of service are required to go to 1 of the job fairs within their last 6 months of service. Ms. Freid suggested Mr. Marshall provide an update at the November FLWIB Board meeting that 800-1000 vets go through Fort Drum Fair – gain momentum from employers.

V. Other Business

Mr. Woloson shared a DOL Virtual Job Fair was occurring at the same time as the Veteran's Committee Meeting. Discussion on the options for veteran's: Helmets to Hardhats which helps transition military to skilled trades; it was noted that mechanics in the military could step into manufacturing. Mr. Marshall stated that most mechanics already have jobs lined up prior to the job fair requirements so we should look at all industries in the FL region for Veteran's. Ms. Coomber mentioned she works with an Equine Center in Mendon. Mr. Marshall stated there will be an opening for a Veteran Service Office in Ontario County.

Meetings will take place every other month moving forward.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 23, 2021** at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Freid
Executive Director