

**Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board
One Stop Partner Meeting
Zoom**

Meeting Notes

In attendance:

Michael Woloson, FLWIB
Dréa Badger, FLWIB
Jenny Loewenstein, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
Danielle Maloy, ACCES-VR
Kathy Shay, ACCES-VR
Andrea McGraw, Ontario County Workforce Development
Joe Davis, Yates County Workforce Development
Julia Murphy, NYS DOL
Tamar Bouchard, A4TD
Greg Maine, Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES
Marion French, WXXI Education Department
Colleen Casali, Native American Community Services
Patricia Stovall-Lane, PathStone
Jen Weaver, Wayne County Workforce Development
Annie Mahoney, Seneca County Workforce Development and Youth Bureau
Jane Sullivan, NYS Commission for the Blind

Introductions

Everyone did a quick introduction and Jenny introduced the agenda.

Disability Resource Coordinator, Michael

NYS is funding disability resource coordinator for each workforce investment area that doesn't have one already. The FLWIB will receive \$300,000 for three years to have coordinate resources for people with disabilities. Putting together an RFP to find an agency that can provide the following services:

- Increase capacity at career centers and surrounding career pathway programs
- Identify and leverage disability resources and partners
- Assist the promotion of available programs and existing career pathways
- Developing our area into an employment network
- Benefits advising

NYS DOL on UI services and re-opening offices, Julia

Geneva office is back open, some staff is telecommuting (a max of 2 days a week).

Mandatory re-employment unemployment insurance appointments can be done in person. Remaining customers are seen mostly virtually, or via phone.

In January and February, 225 customers were served for reemployment insurance appointments, with a total of 439 appointments. An additional 863 customers were served and 6 warm referrals to training. The Business services team is offering virtual job fairs. The license for virtual job fair platform was renewed and the next one will be held on March 16. The last one on February 8 43 business participated, 274 people attended pre-events, and 200 attended the live event from the 9-county area; 48 people participated from our 4-county area.

The counseling team is offering workshops; there are over 50 offerings in March.

Staff Development Update, Michael

At our last meeting we discussed doing interagency cross training- each agency would provide an overview of their agency and the services they provide or can do a presentation on a specific topic

related to their agency. The presentations would be held on the last Thursday of the month at 2pm and each agency would have about 30-45 minutes for training and then time for questions.

Please fill out the attached you will find the Finger Lakes Works Cross Training sign up form and send it to Jenny and Michael. A calendar will be created and shared as well.

March 24th will be the first session; Joe Davis agreed to go first and will be discussing OTDA and TANF programs.

Referral Update, Michael

Followed up with Rochester Works and GLOW WDB to see how they are managing referrals. Rochester Works suspended reporting referrals during Covid and hasn't resumed. Prior to Covid partners reported referrals utilizing a report each quarter. Utilizing the release on the back of the referral form or the release form that the state partners require.

GLOW developed a model after the Finger Lakes referral method, do not require DocuSign. Launched 2 weeks after Covid.

Whatever works best for the customers, please send your numbers over each month so we can say have been tracking our referrals. Referrals are starting to go up, after being so long. The cross training may be helpful with increasing referrals.

Youth Program Update, Dréa

Enrollment in the FL 4 county area in the 5 programs has been really good. 83% enrollment to the goal for the program year. RFP that was done in 2020 and awarded will be extend through program year 2022.

Finger Lakes Works with their Hands will take place on May 25, 2022, at Finger Lakes Community College. Currently there are 840 students registered, still trying to connect with additional districts. The goal is to start making the schedule and finalize sponsors, exhibitors and registration numbers in April. The original outreach is going to school districts; high school guidance counselors, work-based learning coordinators, and tech teachers it is left up to the districts on how to distribute. How to encourage participation from students who have disabilities?

MOU Update, Michael

Sent it in October, still waiting to hear back. Will follow up with the Department of Labor.

Fleet Electrification Feasibility Study, Jenny

Held a steering committee meeting to review the sections of the feasibility study. The goal of the study is to lay out the current conditions in the region that support EV fleet adoption, what is the current state of infrastructure, workforce development, and what policies are currently in place and how to do we fill these gaps especially in workforce development.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding has \$7.5 billion in funding for EV charging stations, NYS will receive approximately \$175 million over the next five years. I am waiting to see if there will be a component of the IJA or Build Back Better to fund training and workforce development support to make this transition more fully.

Requiring companies to do in-house trainings on these technologies will be necesary.

All Partners Update/Round table

Danielle Maloy, ACCES-VR

- ACCES-VR Has been seeing people in person (by appointment only), virtually, or over the phone. Starting in April they will be accepting walk-in customers.
- Offering telecommuting to staff, up to 3 days every 2 weeks
- Seeing about 200 new applications a month in the Rochester, Finger Lakes area combined. The numbers are starting to come back up, still lower than prior to the pandemic.
- Utilizing a bus campaign across the state to promote services on the side of buses.
- Creating a new case management system called 'Aware'.

Kathy Shay, ACCES-VR

- The Geneva office- councilors are mostly in person all the schools, some virtual meetings with students.
- Referrals are up from transition students from last year
- Every councilor except Seneca County is in a workforce development office at least once a week.
- Working on collaboration with Ontario County, on youth employment readiness and the summer youth employment program.

Tamar Bouchard, A4TD

- Senior Community Services Employment Program serve people who are 55+, low income, and have barriers to employment and place them in host agencies for training.
- Remote and in-home training during Covid- people have been working with computers or workbooks. Some people were placed with host agencies if the agencies have been open.
- Enrolment and host agency involvement is down, how to get more referrals and get the word out there. (Looking forward to the cross training, and utilizing some of their marketing funds)
- Looking for a regional coordinator in the Finger Lakes region.

Andrea McGraw, Ontario County Workforce Development

- Doors are open and seeing an increase in foot traffic.
- DSS population has been challenging to get them to participate in programs
- Busy with on-the-job training and incumbent training
- There is not as many regular training program offerings, so it has been a little slower than in the past, but it has still been successful.

Marion French, WXXI Education Department

- Working on a project with American Graduate called "Path to the Future"
 - Creating digital content around high in demand careers and partners with local stations, hoping for better coordination for better content.
 - The program will be focused on teens (seventh to twelfth grade)
 - National youth advisory boards are testing the prototype content, this has led them to possibly focus on shorter pieces directed at tweens and teens to help them later focus on the longer add more in-depth tools in the future
- All the resources, one pagers, postcards, printed materials are available for use. Please reach out if you would like any.

Greg Maine, Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES

- Switching back to the GED for high school equivalency exam in NYS.
 - The testing centers will all have to be computer based, and certified. There is hesitancy from former public testing centers in the area to becoming certified GED testing centers.
 - Leaves them in flux with adult literacy students in community-based classrooms. However almost all incarcerated students can take the GED at approved paper-based testing centers.
- The nursing program is currently holding entrance exams February 18- May 20, 2022.

Jane Sullivan, NYS Commission for the Blind

- Hoping career center referrals pick up.
- Down at councilor but is bringing on a new person April/May that will have a transition caseload and adults. The person will support the transitions caseload as they age and keep them as adults.
- Seeing all participants in person
- The Commission for the Blind in partnership with ACCESS-VR have been doing monthly DOL presentations and have been asked to do the presentation for a third time.
 - Workers with disabilities, and worker retention, for job seekers statewide

Patricia Stovall-Lane, PathStone

- In the office 100% of the time
- Recruiting for 4 staff in the Wayne County field office
- Will be referring seniors to A4TD for employment opportunities
- Currently applying for the FDA Farm and Food Relief grant

Annie Mahoney, Seneca County Workforce Development and Youth Bureau

- Implementing a workshop series for youth participants- First workshop held on March 2 (6 weeks series)
 - Focus on communication skills, resume writing and interviewing
 - Struggling with work experience placements with youth, hoping the series will better prepare them for employment
- Career center traffic has been slow, but there has been some increase.
- Planning summer youth employment program
 - How to better engage youth in the south end of the county?

Joe Davis, Yates County Workforce Development

- Getting back to pre-covid numbers in foot traffic, working on retraining staff
 - Calling OTDA people in
- SNAP and TA program audits upcoming
- Certified production technician classes- Tuesday/Thursday nights
- HSE class on Wednesday nights
- ServSafe classes

Colleen Casali, Native American Community Services

- Trying to get established and expanded into all the counties they serve. As of December 2020, coverage has increased outside of Erie and Niagara counties to include an additional 15 new counties including the Finger Lakes and Central NY.
- Just hired a staff member out of the RochesterWorks office, and they are meeting in person and via zoom in the office. The Buffalo office is still not open.
- Interviews for the Syracuse office
- Erie and Niagara grant funding for a youth club house. The founding is based around opioid addiction prevention. Also allows a lot of Native cultural teachings with youth. Presentations over the next month will be focused on employment:
 - Summer youth program- how to fill out applications, what are the expectations of the job
 - Managing money after your first paycheck
 - Career development

Michael Woloson, FLWIB

- In January/ February JW Lisk held an info session with the careers centers to go over JW Lisk's training programs.
- Will be hosting quarterly employer meetings- employers can share what their current needs are, recruitment strategies, how do people apply for their jobs and any training they are holding. These meetings will be shared with the group.

Wrap Up and Next Meeting-

Next meeting will be on June 1st possibly at the FLWIB offices in Geneva. Please be on the lookout for a calendar invite and agenda.