

FINGER LAKES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 8:30-10:00am
Via Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Kathy Baker, Pete Bekisz, Lina Brennan, Zachary Brooks, Sarah Bruzee, Bob Coyne, Mike Davis, Jennifer DeVault, Sarah Eighmey, Tom Facer, Michelle Jungermann, Michael Kauffman, Julia Maslyn, Danielle Maloy, Michael Manikowski, Julia Murphy, Dr. Rob Nye, Lori Parish, Bonnie Percy, Joseph Pellerite, Rick Plympton, Michael Rusinko, Christi Rollo, Mitch Rowe, Jim Sinicropi, Eileen Tiberio, Erica Wright

Absent: Randi DiAntonio, Bob Doebelin, Rick House, Dr. Vicky Ramos

Guests: New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon, Kathy Bailey, Roderic Cox-Cooper, Joseph Davis, Lisa Graf, Joseph Hamm, Ashley Larimore, Andrea McGraw, Elizabeth Morabito, Ann Piorkowski, Molly Streb, John Vrabel, Mike Whirtley

Staff: Dréa Badger, Bobbi-Jo Bilia, Lynn Freid, Jen May, Debbie Sowards, Michael Woloson

At 8:30 a.m. Mr. Plympton called the meeting to order and reminded all members to complete the meeting evaluation that was provided to them prior to this meeting via email.

ECONOMIC NEWS AND UPDATES:

Economic Issues/Trends/Concerns:

Advanced Manufacturing – Mr. Plympton stated that the labor market is extremely tight and there are a few challenges with the supply chain, but for the most part, manufacturers are working around the issues and continuing to operate.

Vineyard/Winery – Ms. Eighmey reported the vineyards are dealing with increased costs and shortages of pesticides, herbicides, and chemicals. The balance lies in trying not to pass along those increases to the customer with the finished product.

Healthcare – Ms. DeVault shared that core staff continues to be exhausted, with more open positions than have been seen before at the hospital. Thompson has had success with recent job fairs, thanks in part to a Finger Lakes Hires campaign. About half of the thirty walk-ins to the job fair in January and fifty in March were ultimately hired. The hospital remains full of ill patients and the nursing home is overflowing, without enough direct care providers. Thompson is running their own internal CNA classes, as well as continuing their partnership with the program at FLCC, as there is such a need.

Advanced Manufacturing – Mr. Plympton continued by stating the sector has had to increase wages to incentivize applicants and keep up with inflation with current workforce.

Economic Development – Mr. Manikowski shared that Ontario County is trying to put up a new building at the Tech Farm in Geneva and the prices are astronomical and lead times are much longer than expected.

Labor – Mr. Davis added that there has been an influx of younger workers to the trades and the sector is going to be busy for years with all the new infrastructure projects.

NYS DOL – Ms. Murphy stated that the Geneva Career Center welcomed walk-in traffic beginning May 5th. Traffic is slow at the moment, but Ms. Murphy is certain it will increase as word of in-person assistance spreads in the community. The ID.me portion of unemployment insurance filing that was set up during the pandemic is being phased out. This has been a challenge for some of our customers and has been the reason for many career center visits. Identity will still be verified through other methods and ID.me will only be used when it cannot be done another way.

Program Changes

No current program changes.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance & Audit – Ms. Sowards reported that the committee has been busy reviewing budgets for the last couple of months, which are before this board. The process is now beginning for the internal audit, to be completed by Bonadio Group. Approval of Youth budgets will not be requested at this meeting, but approval will be requested in June, via email, after review by both the Finance & Audit and Executive committees.

Governance & Membership – Mr. Manikowski stated the committee brings forward a resolution to approve the PY'22 Slate of Officers, with Ms. DeVault serving as Chairperson. Ms. Freid added that Mr. Bekisz will serve as Vice-Chair Private Sector, Mr. William Pealer as Vice-Chair Public Sector and Mr. Doebelin will continue to support the board as Treasurer/Secretary.

Marketing & Communication – Ms. May shared the focus has been on using Finger Lakes Hires: Have You Heard to promote NYS DOL virtual workshops that are offered throughout every month and thanking sponsors of "Finger Lakes Works... *with their hands!*". Analytics for the campaigns show high traffic and involvement on social media platforms. Ms. May added that a Have You Heard post featured congratulations to Ms. Parish on her recent promotion at Generations Bank. Ms. Parish shared that all board members should ask their various marketing departments to assist in social media efforts by the board. Ms. Freid recognized Ms. May for her continued growth in this area.

Performance & Evaluation – Ms. Baker informed the group that the committee met in April and reviewed center updates, preliminary PY'21 customer numbers, SkillUp Finger Lakes analytics, upcoming job fair information and additional Opioid Crisis grant funds being made available to the board. The committee will meet again at the end of June.

Economic Development – Mr. Manikowski reported that the committee met at the beginning of the year and were provided an overview of the proposed state budget and initiatives by Mr. Hamm. The committee will meet again on June 30th.

Youth – Ms. Parish stated that the committee is scheduled to meet on June 8th at 3:00 p.m., with an in-person option. Ms. Badger added that “Finger Lakes Works..with their hands!” will take place on Wednesday, May 25th, at FLCC in Canandaigua. About six hundred students and chaperones from twenty-five school districts will be attending, as well as fifty-five exhibitors from the manufacturing and skilled trades, healthcare and agriculture sectors. The event will work similar to those in the past but there will be some changes due to combining the sectors and the new location.

FAME – Mr. Plympton shared that the group been in the strategic planning process with CauseWave and a focus group has identified 4 Pillars of FAME: continuing the original mission of promoting advanced manufacturing careers in the region - doing corporate tours and internships, gathering input from manufacturers in the region to ensure that educational programs are getting people workplace ready, listening to the voice of the employer by representing/advocating for employers at the state and federal levels, and sharing Best Practices and informing employers of ways they can improve their good jobs. An annual meeting of all the stakeholders is being planned for October.

Director's Report – Ms. Freid drew everyone's attention to the PY'22 schedule of meetings that was provided in this meeting packet of materials, which includes many changes from previous years. There will be a posting for a Youth Coordinator at the WIB, to come out in June. Ms. Freid added that Seneca County has chosen not to renew the WIOA contract and she has an upcoming meeting with NYS DOL to better understand what Seneca County's exist entails. As of July 1st, there is an open slot for WIOA contract provider. More information will be shared as needed and appropriate. Lastly, the Office of Strategic Development is reconvening, and Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Councils has been reinstated.

New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon

Commissioner Reardon joined the group to give an overview of the state's \$221 billion budget and social and economic initiatives: tax relief for 6.1 million New Yorkers, a homeowner tax rebate credit, \$250 million to help small businesses offset COVID-19 related expenses and dedicating an additional \$531 million for SUNY and CUNY operations. Additionally, \$7 billion will be allocated to childcare resources, \$450 million to revitalize downtowns across the state and \$350 million for workforce development programs and initiatives. The entirety of Commissioner Reardon's presentation can be found on the WIB YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85YDjwRdfYw&t=97s>, 27:03.

Ms. Parish asked if any of the funds allocated to childcare will assist in securing childcare providers for communities. Commissioner Reardon responded that funds will be going to both the provider centers for reestablishing infrastructure and to the providers themselves. Ms. Tiberio encouraged the state to look more closely at the availability of providers, as much of our area, and others, are in childcare deserts. Ms. Tiberio added that many challenges exist due to the many regulations for childcare providers hindering new centers. Other questions asked can be found at the recording given above.

New Business/Consent Agenda

Approval of minutes from January 19, 2022

- a. Resolution 09-21 Acceptance of Funds and Amendment of FLWIB Budget PY'21
- b. Resolution 10-21 Acceptance of Opioid NDWG Funds
- c. Resolution 11-21 Approval of FLWIB Policy & Procedure Manual
- d. Resolution 12-21 Approval of Slate of Officers PY'22
- e. Resolution 13-21 Approval of Adult and DW Transfer Request
- f. Resolution 14-21 Approval of Intensive and Training Providers and Programs
- g. Resolution 15-21 Approval of Existing Youth Policies
- h. Resolution 16-21 Approval of WIOA Youth ITA Policy
- i. Resolution 17-21 Approval of Budgets and Contracts for WIOA Title I PY'22
- j. Resolution 18-21 Approval of FLWIB Budget PY'22
- k. Resolution 19-21 Approval of One Stop Operator PY'22

A motion to approve minutes from the January 19, 2022 meeting and Resolutions 09-21 through 19-21 was made by Mr. Manikowski and seconded by Mr. Coyne. All in favor, motion carried.

FLWIB Board Meeting

May 18, 2022

Page 3

Keuka College – Ashley Larimore and Ann Piorkowski

Ms. Larimore and Ms. Piorkowski provided information on evening and online programs available at Keuka College. The entirety of their presentation can be found on the WIB YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85YDjwRdfYw&t=97s>, 1:04:36

Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, September 21, 2022, *location TBD*

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jen May, Executive Assistant