

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, Inc.

VETERANS OUTREACH MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 13, 2022

Via Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Christopher Caughey, Michelle Coomber, Karen Dean, Alé Mendoza, Yashira Rodriguez, Phil Rouin, Kathy Shay

Staff: Michael Woloson

I. Introductions/Approval of the August 18, 2022 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

Motion to approve the minutes: Ms. Dean; Seconded by Mr. Rouin,

II. Discussion on Veteran Outreach Committee: mission and vision

Jeremy Marshall, previous chair of this committee, has left the area and the committee needs a new chair.

Ms. Badger used the Individuals with Disabilities Committee as an example: the committee convened key stakeholders from partner agencies to discuss needs of that population and out of those discussions, the Disability Resource Coordinator position was formed. The DRC position has been filled at the WIB and that person will coordinate with area partners to ensure all resources are being used the assist individuals with disabilities in the Finger Lakes.

III. Updates from Career Centers

Ms. Coomber shared that her case load has been pretty small and while she likes to see Veterans in-person, some feel that travel to the center is a hardship. In that case, virtual appointments are used. Last week, she connected three Veterans with Experience Counts, the Wayne County security guard training program. She has also been contacting the VFWs in the area and giving them career center flyers and staff business cards. Ms. Coomber feels it is important to share information across multiple agencies to support Veterans of the area.

Mr. Caughey stated that Veterans' unemployment is 2.7%, which is attributing to the small caseloads. Veteran staff are seeing those who want to change careers as well. Job search requirements have changed, now job seekers can do the required three job searches a week on the same day, which makes compliance easier for some job seekers. Also, any reasonable activity that helps towards employment counts toward the requirement.

IV. Roundtable and other business

Ms. Dean reported that the Red Cross committees are regrouping and hopes to bring back the breakfast that was previously held at the VFW in Palmyra.

Ms. Erdle shared that FLCC's upcoming semester begins on August 29th, with 51% of students attending virtually. The college is reinvigorating the Veterans Advocacy Council, which will meet once a month, and they are seeing a large number of Veterans reaching out in advance. Many of those Veterans are asking for information about finding part-time employment while they attend classes. Once dates for the Council are set, Ms. Erdle will ask members of this group if they would like to come to the campus to talk about local, part-time work opportunities. Veterans Week will be the week of Veterans Day, November 11th. More information will be shared at the next meeting.

Mr. Rouin mentioned the PFC Joseph Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Support Program is Yates County and that a Peer-to-Peer Specialist has been hired. Mr. Rouin will connect her with Ms. Coomber. A "flood" of Marines has come to the agency regarding claims for the Camp Lejeune water contamination case. Mr. Rouin also spoke of the ETS Sponsorship Program <https://fingerlakesworks.com/finger-lakes-hires-have-you-heard-ets-mentorship-program-here-to-help-transitioning-service-members/>.

Ms. Rodriguez reported that there were 275 attendees at the recent Fort Drum career fair, with 29 employers. She will be hosting a Welcome to Rochester event on October 7th and 8th to allow soldier, spouses and families to truly get a relocation experience and convince them to stay in the area after transitioning.

Mr. Brooks hopes to be able to attend the next Fort Drum career fair. A few Veterans are in the hiring process for positions at Lisk.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:35pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8th, 2022 at 3pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jen May
Executive Assistant