

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 1999 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Workforce Development Board was called to order by Chairman Lynn Blevins at 6:23 PM, Wednesday, August 25, 1999 at The Village Inn, Massena, New York.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Genevieve Baxter, Lynn Blevins, Maureen Buck, Sue Caswell, Richard Daddario, Greg Davis, Donald Hooper, Joe Kennedy, Robert LaClair, Jr., Ron McDougall, James McFaddin, Joanne Novak, Peter Phelan

Members Absent: Doug Beachard, John Deal, Dick DeLaporte, Linda Randi, Bob Snider

Others Present: Natalie Haggart, Raymond Fountain, Edmund Russell, Jr., Jim Connor, Steve House, John Manson and Gretchen Wood of the Office of Economic Development; Walt Paul of BOCES; Mike Slavin from Slavin's Furniture

Mr. Blevins welcomed members, staff and guests to the meeting.

**MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Phelan and seconded by Ms. Baxter, the minutes of the July 28, 1999 meeting were accepted. Approved unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Blevins noted that Mr. Mike Slavin from Slavin's Furniture would be sitting in on the meeting. Mr. Blevins reiterated his view that Board members should become more involved in seeking out private sector members to fill vacancies for the Workforce Development Board. Mr. Blevins asked for volunteers for the nominations committee. Mr. Backus offered to serve and the suggestion was made that Mr. DeLaPorte would also be beneficial to the committee. Mr. McFaddin also volunteered to serve.

Mr. Blevins praised Ms. Buck for all of her contributions to the Private Industry Council/Workforce Development Board and thanked her for all of her years of service and dedication. Ms. Buck was then presented with a gift from the members—a desk clock with a plaque not only noting her years of service on the PIC, but also her years as chairwoman. Ms. Buck, although excited about her move to Glens Falls, stated how much she enjoyed serving on the Council as well as enjoying the many good friends she has made here. Mr. McFaddin noted that Ms. Buck will be missed in her community of Norwood as she has made many contributions and friends there.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Although there was no old business on the agenda, Mr. Russell discussed with the Board the plan of the Highway Task Force (with the help of the Industrial Development Agency) to develop a float for the upcoming Labor Day parade in Massena. The main purpose is to raise awareness among North Country residents and local politicians of the inequity of the current highway infrastructure. Mr. Richard Mooers of the St. Lawrence County Planning Office completed a map of New York State showing how the North Country is the only section of the State without 35 mile or less access to a major interstate. Not only will this map be reproduced for the float, the map will have "Let's get connected" and "4 Lanes for Jobs" on each side. On the back of the float will be a sign listing the names of all of the supporters of this project, which includes the Private Industry Council.

Mr. Russell also informed the Board about the current status of the Appleton/Newton Falls Paper Mill. Mr. Russell met with management and union officers on August 24 to discuss the situation. Appleton is in the process of reorganization and is consolidating all of its coated paper making. Because Appleton's mill in Wisconsin is newer and more costly, they are pulling the coated division out of Newton Falls. At present, there are 298 hourly and 55 salaried individuals. In the 1997 restructuring, 140 production and 22 salaried individuals lost their jobs. Rene Foirer, Newton Falls Plant Manager, told Mr. Russell that he believes that the plant can be competitive even though it has not yet achieved a break-even basis since Appleton took the plant over in 1995. Mr. Russell then advised that he plans on going to Locksmill, Wisconsin, in the next few weeks to talk with Appleton's CEO, Mike VanEyck.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Resolution Authorizing The St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development

Mr. Russell commented that he hoped that the resolution accurately reflected the July meeting discussion on this issue. Mr. McFaddin asked if the resolution should state the specific names of the Partners. Mr. Russell and Mr. Phelan both stated that the names should not be listed in case of a change in Partners. Mr. Paul of BOCES and Mr. Davis of VESID agreed. Mr. Phelan then moved, seconded by Mr. McFaddin. The motion passed unanimously. Resolution 99-08-12 attached.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee reports.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Russell briefly stated that the new fiscal year began on July 1, 1999 and that the prior two (2) budget years are almost zeroed out. Mr. McFaddin moved, seconded by Mr. Hooper. The Financial Report for July of 1999 was accepted; passed unanimously.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Russell asked Mr. House, Mr. Manson and Mr. Connor from the One-Stop to each give a brief report regarding the differences between the JTPA program and Workforce Investment Act and how these difference will affect our customers. Mr. Manson began the discussion by stressing how the One-Stop increases the access to Partner agencies and the availability of information that our customers can use. Because of the collaboration between the agencies of the One-Stop, our customers can now be serviced in one location rather than having to be sent to various locations around the county if their needs are not being met. Mr. Manson also stated that because our services are customer-driven, everyone who walks through our door is now eligible to use different services, instead of the income standards system used under the current JTPA program for eligibility. Another WIA benefit has been that the One-Stop Partners are becoming more familiar with and knowledgeable of the services of the Partner agencies.

Mr. House began his discussion from a Dislocated Worker aspect. He reiterated how the access to services and agencies are advantageous to our customers. Mr. House went on to explain how the Dislocated Worker is usually more skilled than our average customer, being unemployed usually due to layoffs, etc. The One-Stop can offer these customers a resource room, computer access for job search and educational opportunities to sharpen their current skills to get them

back in the workforce. Under WIA, vouchers for individual training accounts can be used for classroom training.

Finally, Mr. Connor explained the new registration form that all of the Partners of the One-Stop helped consolidate. All of the Partners accept this form and all of its contents thus eliminating the duplication of paperwork. By January of 2000, all of the agencies will be sharing and using the same information leading to an integration of services provided by the One-Stop. Mr. Connor stated that the registration form handed out to the membership is still going through the revision process. Mr. Connor also mentioned that he and his colleagues were now working on a uniform assessment form. Mr. Russell commented on how this new registration form will make it easier for the customer in obtaining services, rather than being “jerked around” from one agency location to another throughout the County. Again, this is another example of the One-Stop becoming customer focused and customer driven. Mr. Russell stated that the quarterly report card produced by the One-Stop is mandated under the new WIA legislation and noted to the Board that the One-Stop’s levels of customer satisfaction were higher this quarter.

Mr. Russell then apologized to the Board for the misinformation they were given regarding the meeting with Ron Dillon. Apparently, Mr. Dillon only wants to meet with chief elected officials and not all of the Board members. Mr. Blevins stated that he will relay any questions that the Board may have to Mr. Dillon.

Mr. Russell then began to discuss some major issues that the Board is going to face under the new WIA legislation. Some of these issues include implementing a One-Stop Operating Agreement, the structuring of Memorandums of Understanding between the Partners, the nature of the Youth Council which will be directed by the Board, the selection of service providers (although some direction will be given by the State), and the allocation of resources. Mr. Russell stated that the Board needs to consider the process of managing issues and choose the most important issues to handle since all of the issues cannot be addressed at once. Mr. Blevins then stated that he would like a model developed for the September meeting to begin the brainstorming process rather than waiting until December. Mr. Russell then stated that the Summer Program can be handled by the Office of Economic Development with other services being bid out—the Workforce Development Board would select the most appropriate bidder. Board members felt that the September meeting should look at the youth program design. Dr. Kennedy asked if Workforce Development Board members could serve on the Youth Council representing the various groups cited in the law. If they could, the size of the Youth Council could be kept to a manageable level.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Blevins thanked Council members for attending the meeting. On motion of Mr. Blevins and seconded by Mr. Davis, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion continued after adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joanne M. Novak, Esq.