

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 1999 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Workforce Development Board was called to order by Chairman Lynn Blevins at 7:56 PM, Wednesday, September 22, 1999 at Blevin's Motors, Gouverneur, New York.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Doug Beachard, Lynn Blevins, Sue Caswell, Richard Daddario, Greg Davis, John Deal, Dick DeLaporte, Donald Hooper, Ron McDougall, James McFaddin, Peter Phelan, Linda Randi

Members Absent: Genevieve Baxter, Joseph Kennedy, Robert LaClair, Jr., Joanne Novak, Bob Snider

Others Present: Natalie Haggart, Raymond Fountain, Edmund Russell, Jr., Jim Connor, Steve House and Gretchen Wood of the Office of Economic Development; Walt Paul of BOCES; Anthony LaGatta of the New York State Department of Labor

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

MINUTES

Moved by Mr. McFaddin and seconded by Mr. Phelan, the minutes of the August 25, 1999 meeting were accepted. Approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Blevins began his comments with a reminder to the Board regarding the recruitment of Private Sector Members. Mr. Blevins suggested drafting a letter on recruitment to be sent out to possible candidates in St. Lawrence County. Mr. Russell added that the Board needs geographic coverage for their membership, and that four (4) or five (5) decision making people are needed. Mr. Russell also encouraged the Board to attend the Greg Newton seminar section to be held on Tuesday, October 5 as it is a senior staff session and would be most useful to Board members.

Mr. Blevins then informed the Board about his meeting with Jim Dillon, Executive Deputy Commissioner New York State Department of Labor. Mr. Dillon felt that there would be no geographical difference between the current Service Delivery Area and future Workforce Investment Act for St. Lawrence County. Mr. Dillon spent a considerable amount of time during the meeting discussing the unemployment insurance system in the State. The amount of time individuals remain on unemployment participant is 17-18 weeks down from 20-21 weeks several years ago. The State ranks next to last in this statistic and the goal of the administration is to reduce the duration to 13-14 weeks which would be closer to the national average. There are significant savings to be realized by employers by such a reduction. Mr. Dillon agreed to investigate the issues regarding the purchase of the telephone system for the One-Stop. He also agreed that the State should not create additional regulations beyond those already developed by the Federal Government. Mr. Blevins also went on to say that Mr. Dillon complimented our One-Stop Career Center and our accomplishments thus far, but did indicate that we are only scratching the surface of what can be done.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Fountain briefly stated that the report shows the first two (2) months of the new fiscal year and that they are traditionally the two slowest months of the year. The money for Program Year 97 has been totally expended and we are currently using this year's monies along with the remaining of Program Year 98. Mr. McDougall moved, seconded by Ms. Caswell. The Financial Report for August of 1999 was accepted; passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Fountain advised the Board that the One-Stop has been awarded a \$300,000 implementation grant. He also stated that the Partners having been meeting once a month, and they are still working on Memorandums of Understanding. The Partners are still determining how they are going to meet their cost allocation needs. Mr. Fountain also stated that the Partners are trying to create a tracking system regarding customer flow, and David Williams is currently working on a customer satisfaction model.

Mr. Fountain then announced that the North Country was awarded a \$75,000 grant to implement a Job Vacancy Survey which would predict vacancies among North Country employers. Only nine (9) regions in the United States were awarded these monies. Allen Beideck of the Department of Labor prepared the structure of the survey and cover letter which Mr. Blevins has signed. Mr. Russell added that this activity is a three (3) year effort and that the survey will be sent to every employer with 100 to 200+ employees in the North Country—smaller employers with 100 or less employees are presumed to be only 25% of the total employers in the North Country.

Mr. Russell then brought the two (2) marketing pieces in the Board's packet to their attention. The first is the Advantage brochure which, in essence, is a take-off from the Industrial Development Agency's own marketing brochure. The intention is for the counselors to hand them out to employers in the hope that the information provided regarding the One-Stop Career Center, IDA and WDB will be beneficial in helping with business development plans. Mr. Russell then advised the Board that the "Let's Get Connected" brochure, sponsored by the Highway Corridor Working Group, will be revised to correct some typographical errors and to modify the map. On Wednesday, September 29, the brochures are to be handed out at the Local Government Conference at Maxcy Hall, SUNY Potsdam. Mr. Russell then added that the float that was used for the Labor Day parade in Massena will be placed at the entrance of Maxcy Hall. The goal is to maximize awareness of the need for improved transportation infrastructure.

Mr. Connor then began discussing the 1999 Summer Youth Employment Training Program Remedial Component Final Report prepared by Elizabeth Patterson, Lead Tutor. Mr. Paul commented that the gains made by students were lower this year and that the One-Stop was seeing more "special needs" youth. Mr. Connor stated that the participants do not take the post-tests seriously, if they even take them at all. He agreed with Mr. Paul that we are serving more at risk youth and that more targeting needed to take place. This SYETP Report includes both the pre- and post-testing conducted, but the youth either rushed through the test and did not take it seriously or blew it off totally and this significantly affected the numbers. The question was then raised by Mr. McFaddin on how, if possible, we can control the youth to succeed. Mr. Blevins proposed the option of continuous testing throughout the program. Mr. Connor indicated that there are only five (5) weeks for instruction of basic skills and is done in small groups. Owing to the lateness of the meeting, Mr. Blevins placed the SYETP on October's agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Blevins reminded the Board that the NAPIC conference in Washington will be held February 28 through March 2, 2000. He would like to see at least four (4) Board members attend. If you are interested in going, please let Mr. Blevins or Mr. Russell know.

MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blevins thanked Council members for attending the meeting. On motion of Mr. Daddario and seconded by Mr. McDougall, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Novak, Esq.