

**Fulton, Montgomery & Schoharie Counties
Workforce Development Board, Inc.
Business Service Consortium
Meeting Minutes**

Facilitator: Nancy Reccio
August 9, 2022 (via ZOOM)

Attendees: Erin Abele, Laurie Bargstedt, Donna Becker, Christie Davis, George Grosse, Chris Larrabee, Ethan Menconi, Cyndi Moore, Ashley Paciello, Nancy Rogers

Introductions

Job Orders

Job Orders are posted on the NYS Job Bank and can be found at: newyork.usnlx.com

Updates

Nancy Reccio (FMS Workforce Career Center)

John Goldswe (Disabilities Resource Coordinator at FMS Workforce Career Center) is unable to attend today so this is his report:

Plans were in the works to hold an Outdoor Job Fair & Community Expo in Schoharie County and in Fulton County on Saturdays in the fall. The event will include businesses, community services, and education (SUNY Coby in Schoharie county and FM in Fulton-Montgomery counties). Another aspect to draw attendees is to include food trucks, BBQ vendors, and activities (such as mini golf) to attract more people. Both of these events will now be moved to the Spring based on conflicts of other events on the Saturdays that these would have been held.

Plans are also in the works to hold a reverse job fair in the spring. This is where jobseekers have a table and sell themselves to employers. This event would involve BOCES, PTEch, schools and the Workforce Career Centers to get the jobseekers ready.

Another event in the planning stages is Resource Mapping. This is something that has been presented in his SCION (System Change and Inclusive Opportunities Network) meetings. The mapping would be in each county and create a guide of all resources to assist people. There would be an event in conjunction with this guide to bring together local businesses and service agencies to meet.

Now for the business services report:

The Business Services team is still planning on a fall Job Fair in Schoharie County and is currently exploring a venue – possibly the Walmart parking lot or the Wohls plaza parking lot near the Cobleskill Workforce Career Center.

Private Industry Council (PIC) has 3 job openings: Resource Room Coordinator in Cobleskill, Employment Specialist at Schoharie County DSS, and High School Equivalency Instructor covering Fulton, Montgomery and Schoharie Counties. Fulton County Center for Regional Growth is looking for a Downtown Development Specialist. All of these opportunities are posted on the New York State DOL Job Bank.

Chris Larrabee (NYS Department of Labor)

The statewide monthly virtual job fairs continue. The next one is September 7th. The Mohawk Valley region averages 50 to 60 employers on these virtual fairs which run for 3 hours each month. The preview day is a good prep for jobseekers on how to navigate a job fair.

In addition to the virtual job fairs, DOL Business Services matches job orders posted on the New York State Job Bank to jobseekers. There is an increase of remote positions being posted on the Job Bank statewide.

Nancy Rogers (FMS Workforce Career Center)

Customized recruitments are still being held in the Cobleskill Career Center. There were 4 total recruitments in June and July which attracted 17 total jobseekers. If anyone is interested in having a recruitment event in any of our centers, please reach out to the Center and something can be arranged.

The Greater Capital Region continues to hold the monthly virtual workshops. This platform will continue because the workshops are very well attended.

George Grosse (Lexington/Employment Resources)

The agency is struggling with getting participants for the summer youth program.

Efforts continue with job coaching, job development, and expanding business contacts. The agency is seeing referrals from ACCES VR.

Every business is looking for help regardless of which county they are located in and what type of business they are.

Christie Davis (FMCC)

The Fall Semester will begin on September 1st so things are ramping up at the college.

There is an apprenticeship program through SUNY and NYS Department of Labor and there are funds out there for apprenticeships in different lines of work. FM is currently working with Liberty ARC through an apprenticeship agreement – the individuals are employed by Liberty while working on their education with FMCC. These individuals are dual enrolled and both Liberty and FM market this program. After completing the online courses and the field experience, the individuals earn a SUNY Certificate for Direct Support Professional. FM is looking for other employers to have these types of apprenticeships, especially in the medical field. The college currently works with Nathan Littauer and St. Mary's for Medical Billing and Coding as well as Phlebotomy certificates.

The reverse job fair idea is exciting. It is something different and it guarantees that there are jobseekers there.

Cyndi Moore (Liberty ARC/CEN)

The agency is very interested in learning more about the reverse job fair event.

There is excitement with CDTA coming to Amsterdam. This will help with transportation concerns.

The Summer Youth program is in process and all candidates were placed successfully.

Donna Becker (Schoharie County DSS)

The homeless numbers in Schoharie County are way up. They are currently housing 30 adults and 17 children and many more need help. Some of the homeless have been placed outside of the county.

There are many positions open with Schoharie County and there are upcoming exam announcements. Please check the Schoharie County website to see these positions and exam offerings. If an applicant has successfully scored on the exam prior to taking the job, there is no worry of needing to score in the top 3 in order to keep a provisional appointment.

Ethan Menconi (Herkimer Madison Oneida Working Solutions/Project Excite)

An information session was held on July 20th at FM. There was 1 student and 1 parent in attendance. The event was live streamed through zoom.

Fall contracts are being worked on for students attending SUNY FM and SUNY Cobleskill.

A promotional event is being planned for the fall to recruit student participants for the spring semester.

Ashley Paciello (ACCES VR)

The agency is holding community information sessions and taking applications for participants.

ACCES VR did a reverse job fair a few years ago as part of a disability mentoring day. It was well received because it was a different approach. One suggestion is to survey HR representatives ahead of time to find out the days and times that work best so that there are the right businesses/agencies attending for the types of positions the job seekers are presenting themselves for.

Erin Abele (Liberty ARC)

Liberty has a job posting for a Part time Agritourism Educator and Outreach intern. This position supports the Mohawk Valley Welcome Center and the Taste NY program. There is also a job posting for a full time Employment Support Specialist. This position will pay \$14/hr.

Nominations are being sought for board members for the APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment First) board. Materials related to the role of a volunteer board member will be sent out via email.

On September 28, 2022 at Winners Circle, in conjunction with NYSED, a luncheon will be held to recognize corporate partnerships and honor the Employee of the Year in the Manufacturing Division.

Laurie Bargstedt (HFM BOCES)

Their focus for the fall is a new training initiative for English as a Second Language learners to enter the North Atlantic Regional Carpenters on a program for entry level carpenters. This program gives individuals the language skills and overcomes cultural barriers to prepare the individual to handle the carpenters' union training.

Another focus for the fall is an entry level healthcare training for English as a Second Language learners.

Literacy Zone is primarily using a distance learning model this year. The student meets with the teacher individually once per week for three hours and all other coursework is done at home.

The testing center is back up and running with tests being done on paper. A technology issue is being worked through in order to offer the GED exam in an electronic format. It is no longer compatible with a Chromebook. There are limits on the testing site so the entire test can be offered to less than 20 people.

Approximately 20% of the individuals that Literacy Zone serves are professionals from other nations. It is necessary to raise awareness of the services available in the area to these individuals.

Minutes from the Business Services Consortium are posted and can be found at <https://www.fmsworkforcesolutions.org/business-services-consortium/>

Business Services Consortium meetings are held the second Tuesday every other month if you'd like to mark your calendar.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM.