



Workforce Development Board

Bringing Jobs & People Together

A proud partner of the American Job Center

1000 Coffeen Street
Watertown, New York 13601

Phone: (315) 786-3651

Fax: (315) 786-3679

DRAFT Board Meeting Minutes DRAFT

December 19, 2024 at 8:00 am

Hilton Garden Inn, 1290 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY, 13601

Welcome/Call to Order: Secretary Rob Aiken welcomed Board Members at 8:01 am. Quorum was established.

Privilege of the Floor: There was none.

Guest Speaker: Craig McNamara, Transition Services Manager, Fort Drum—Transition and Employment Assistance Program

Mr. McNamara explained the Fort Drum Transition Assistance Program (TAP) in detail and expressed that it is a team that works together with many other teams (i.e., Managing Your Education, Education Services, CSP, VA Resources, DoL Employment Navigator Partnership Program, E2I, ERP, SBDC, O2O, etc.).

The 1/3 Rule, transitioning soldier breakout:

- 1/3 stay local (kids in school, spouse employment, etc.)
- 1/3 will return to their home of record
- 1/3 will go where opportunities bring them

Further discussion ensued in regards to enticing transitioning soldiers to stay in this area. The main question was “what is the area missing that would help keep transitioning individuals in the area.” The answer was that basically “what we are missing, we don’t want here.” This is a great place to retire as it is!

Discussed current programs aimed at growing NY’s workforce:

- Next Move NY – A bold new initiative to grow New York’s workforce and create the most robust transitioning soldier and spouse retention pipeline in the country.
- Drum Country NY – A multi-sector economic and workforce development partnership created to help prospective Drum Country employers access the workers, resources, and incentives needed to make our location their best asset.
- Naturally Lewis – A non-profit economic development organization rooted in rural; real community members making a real effort to grow our community into the one we all want to be a part of by championing the growth of a community where people want to live, work, build business, and play.

Approval of Minutes:

- Secretary Aiken asked for a motion to approve the September 19, 2024, Board Meeting minutes. Amy Dwyer made the motion. Secretary Aiken next asked for corrections or discussion. There were none. The motion was seconded by Rod Castillo and approved unanimously.
- Secretary Aiken asked for the motion to approve the December 6, 2024, Executive Board Meeting minutes. Rod Castillo made the motion. Secretary Aiken next asked for corrections or discussion. There were none. The motion was seconded by Marshall Weir and approved unanimously.

Correspondence: There was none.

One-Stop Operator Report: Ms. Munson stated that the September 2024 surveys were mostly positive. The negative one was a complaint against DSS-related policies which we have no control over. No actionable items. Lewis County visit was on December 17th. The quarterly desk review was of the Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) program. Client services are back to pre-pandemic numbers. Top visited customer service is unemployment insurance. Youth services are growing year-round now.

The December One-Stop Partners' Meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2025 at 10:00 am.

Executive Director's Report/Financial Report: A Stronger Workforce for America (ASWA) finalization is still pending, as written it will change training costs to 50%.

Training is down because unemployment is down, individuals seeking work are transitioning easily without needing assistance.

Minimum wage will increase to \$15.50 on January 1, 2025. This hurts non-profit organizations, costs will go up, the middle class is shrinking.

With the recent hiring of Jayda Visitacion in the Skills for Success area, we are fully staffed!

New Business:

- *Resolution: 24-05 – Approval of Membership Renewal to the Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce*
Secretary Aiken asked for a motion of Approval. Jodi Pettit made the motion. Secretary Aiken asked for questions or comments. There were none. The motion was seconded by Mark Prasuhn and approved unanimously.

Upcoming Events:

- January 29, 2025 – 8:30 AM - WorkPlace Forum – BOCES Classroom A/B – SUBJ: Recovery Ready Workplaces: Providing Support to Those in Recovery

Roundtable Discussion: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Next Meeting: March 20, 2025 – 8:00 AM - Location TBD

Adjournment: Marybeth LaVallee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Dwyer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 am.

WDB Attendance:

Aiken, Rob
Anderson, George
Castillo, Rod
Dupee, Dan
Dwyer, Amy
Flint, Travis
LaVallee, Marybeth

Mayforth, Cheryl – Director
Murray, Lynn
Pettit, Jody
Prasuhn, Mark
Thompson, James
Weir, Marshall

Others in Attendance:

Garno, Anne
Gratch, Nicholas
Hennessey, Sean
McNamara, Craig – Speaker
Munson, Angel
Reis, Julie