



**MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING
OF THE
YONKERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Held on September 25, 2020**

Virtual GoToMeeting

Board Members Present:

William Mascetta
Anthony Ascencao
Sara Brody
Rev. Dr. Carl Bruce
Nicholas D'Angelo
Churchill Egone
Ramona Fuentes
Gina Gaines
Charlie Knight
Kris Komorowski
Ross Pepe
Felderi Santiago
Atul Sheffey
Masha Turchinsky
Camille Valentin

Board Members Excused:

Lamont Badru
Laurel Birkett
Mark Corpas
Frank DeSantis
Taryn Duffy
Linda Heyward
Susan Naber
Donald Quadrino
Amir Rabadi
Bonnie Reyna
Ramon Rodriguez

WDB Staff Present

Sean McGrail, Executive Director
George Varkey, Fiscal Officer
Chanele Harris, Executive Assistant

Guests:

Carol Holman, Yonkers Career Center Manager
Linda Patterson, Youth Services Coordinator
Lillian Morales, Business Services Liaison

I. Welcome - Call to Order

Mr. Mascetta called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Mascetta opened the floor for introductions.

Mr. Mascetta gave an overview of a conference with New York State Comptroller, Mr. Thomas DiNapoli.

II. Acceptance of Minutes

The minutes of the June 12, 2020 Board meeting were emailed in advance to Board members.

Mr. Mascetta announced a motion to accept the June 12, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Gaines made a motion to accept the June 12, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr.



Komorowski and was then unanimously approved as submitted.

III. Workforce Development Updates Executive Director, Sean McGrail

Mr. McGrail – The Yonkers unemployment rate which went down since last month. Last month Yonkers unemployment rate was 19.4% which equates to approximately 20,000 people. Yonkers is currently has the highest unemployment rate in the Hudson valley at 15.7% with 16,000 unemployed. The impact of the pandemic affected the retail and hospitality industry (i.e., Empire City Casino by MGM). New York State Department of Labor is handling 4 million unemployment claims.

The New York State Department of Labor cannot give a date as to when the Yonkers Career Center will be opening. New York State Department of Labor is operating virtually to serve the 16,000 people unemployed. OJT and ITA's are still being processed.

WIOA Performance Report Indicators

Mr. McGrail - Workforce Development Performance Report Indicators for the 2nd and 3rd quarters were so strong that they carried us through the 4th quarter. We passed all performances for the year ending June 2020. We are in negotiating current Performance Measures for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020 with the New York State Department of Labor.

Year Round Youth Contract Amendments

Due to the COVID pandemic the Youth Contractors would not meet their numbers. The original contract mandates 75% or 30 youth enrolled by the end of the first quarter and 25% or 10 youth enrolled by the end of the second quarter. The amendments are 30% or 12 youth enrolled by the end of the first quarter, 17 youth enrolled by the end of the second quarter and 11 youth enrolled by the end of the third quarter. The contractors have met their first quarter goal of 12 youth enrolled and entered into the One Stop Operating System (OSOS).

IV. Fiscal Update - PY20 Budget Update Fiscal Officer, George Varkey

Mr. Varkey - We do not have a budget comparison for the year. We received \$527,457 in TANF Funds for the Summer Youth Employment Program with 85% expenditure to the program and 15% administrative fees which brings the budget from \$2,270,000 to \$2,798,000. The year to date comparison will be provided at the next Board meeting.

Mr. D'Angelo - Was this an approved budget?

Mr. Varkey - No, this was not an approved budget. The last approved budget was \$2,270,000. This was not approved because the \$527,457 TANF funding was not available when we presented the budget.

Mr. McGrail - We should take a vote on the budget.

Mr. Mascetta - George give another brief summary for a form of resolution to have it noted and then we can vote.

Mr. D'Angelo - We should approve the numbers.

Mr. Varkey - the approved budget was \$2,270,000 with training money \$878,641. I am adding \$79,118 to that making it \$957,759. The remaining \$448,000 out of the \$527,000 TANF funding the \$448 is added as SYEP expenses. The only change to the approved budget is the training money went up by \$79,000 and the Summer Youth TANF funding has gone up by \$448,000.

Mr. Mascetta announced a motion to accept the PY2020 Budget Update. Mr. Komorowski made a motion to accept the PY2020 Budget Update and Reverend, Dr. Bruce second the motion to accept the PY2020 Budget Update

**V. Operations and Programs Report
Yonkers Career Center Update - Yonkers Career Center Manager, Carol Holman**

Ms. Holman - We have 673 Metrix users 642 cost completions. There has been a decline in registration. Metrix will develop a behavioral analysis outreach and new marketing material. Metrix will create a skills connection to partner with Amazon and other companies. There are 35 active OJT's and 36 ITA's. We are assisting 44 customers from incoming calls with additional training.

**VI. Summer Youth Employment Program
Summer Youth Coordinator, Chanele Harris**

Ms. Harris - We received \$527,000 in Summer Youth funding. There were a total of 13 businesses with the Board of Education and the City of Yonkers providing internships in 10 Departments. The program began on July 20, 2020 and will end September 30, 2020. There were 128 interns with one intern the City of Yonkers, Housing and Building Department. Interns received \$50 incentives for PPE supplies, Sexual Harassment Training, Financial Literacy Training and the YCAP Health & Wellness Vaping Training. The Greyston Garden interns meet with a local artist who will continue a yearlong project to enhance post-secondary decisions.



Mr. Mascetta - Thank you a very impressive performance and accomplishments so thank you and to all the departments for participating.

Ms. Turchinsky - Thank you Chanele for all the work you did to keep the program going over the summer. Many of the HRM intern's families were impacted by the COVID-pandemic. The summer hours were helping contribute to their family incomes. Thank you for all the efforts in keeping the program going. It's a great professional and career building experience and also served a very important practical experience during the pandemic.

Ms. Harris - Added comment - Thank you Board members for participating in the Summer Youth Employment Program year after year; YWCA, Westchester Employment Opportunity Center, Hudson River Museum, Inclusive Links and the Yonkers Downtown BID.

Mr. Mascetta & Ms. Harris - The next Board meeting date will be December 18, 2020 or January 15, 2021. We are looking at mid- March 2021 and mid- June 2021. Tentative dates will be emailed to the Board.

Ms. Turchinsky - Gave an update on the Hudson River Museum and the local artist Vinnie Bagwell's, who is from Yonkers, sculpture "Victory Beyond Sims" that will be displayed in Central Park.

Ms. Valentin - I just wanted to know if anyone heard anything about the New York State sick law and whether, when the Department of Labor was going to clarify some of the outlining pieces that overlap with the Westchester law?

Mr. Sheffey - I will get more information on the matter.

Mr. Egone - Some of the Summer Youth Program Interns have been hired by Inclusive Links. Again, thank you Ms. Harris for your hard work. Mr. Egone will connect with Ms. Turchinsky to partner with special needs children to visit the Hudson River Museum.

Mr. Mascetta announced a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Komorowski made a motion to adjourn and Reverend, Dr. Bruce second motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.