



**MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING
OF THE
YONKERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Held on December 9, 2020**

Virtual GoToMeeting

Board Members Present:

William Mascetta
Lamont Badru
Sara Brody
Nicholas D'Angelo
Taryn Duffy
Churchill Egone
Gina Gaines
Susan Naber
Felderi Santiago
Atul Sheffey

Board Members Excused:

Anthony Ascencao
Laurel Birkett
Rev. Dr. Carl Bruce
Mark Corpas
Frank DeSantis
Ramona Fuentes
Linda Heyward
Charlie Knight
Kris Komorowski
Ross Pepe
Donald Quadrino
Amir Rabadi
Bonnie Reyna
Ramon Rodriguez
Masha Turchinsky
Camille Valentine

WDB Staff Present:

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

Career Center Staff:

Carol Holman, One Stop Manager
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.

II. Acceptance of Minutes

The minutes of the September 25, 2020 Board meeting were emailed in advance to Board members.

Mr. Mascetta announced a motion to accept the September 25, 2020 meeting minutes. Due to lack of quorum Mr. Mascetta is requesting Board members submit ballots by email. Ballots were emailed in advance.

III. Workforce Development Update

Executive Director, Mr. Sean McGrail

Mr. McGrail informed the Board of day to day operations. Mr. McGrail discussed Governor Cuomo and NYSDOL's decision not to reopen the Career Center. Mr. McGrail provided a comparison of 800,000 pre-COVID pandemic unemployment recipients in the AOSOS data base to the current 5 million unemployment recipients in the AOSOS data base. Yonkers unemployment rate is just under 10% or 9,800 in comparison to Mount Vernon 3,900 unemployed. Compared to the previous year Yonkers was about 4% or 3,800 unemployed. Mr. McGrail provided a

comparison of surrounding areas unemployment rates. The Board discussed possible stimulus package. NYSDOL is looking into opening a virtual Career Center.

IV. Fiscal Update

Fiscal Officer, George Varkey

Mr. Varkey states he adjusted the budget as of October 31, 2020. YWDB was awarded a \$154,814.00 grant for additional Dislocated Workers. Mr. Varkey will propose an amended budget at the March Board meeting to reflect the \$154,814.00 grant to programs. Mr. Varkey states the \$23,000.00 administration fee, from the \$154,814.00 Dislocated Workers grant, will be added to the supplies line. NYSDOL gave Mr. Varkey permission to purchase new laptops. Mr. Varkey will propose an adjustment to the supplies line since NYSDOL's approval to purchase laptops in total of \$7,500.00.

Mr. Mascetta: Workforce should seek scenarios prior to reopening to assure we can accommodate unforeseen issues and needs of staff to provide service. What is at risk of revenues?

Mr. McGrail: Due to the continued service being provided NYSDOL has no mention of recouping funds. We will have a buildup of funds to provide services when the office reopens. We are spending as much money as possible so NYSDOL can see there is a need in the Yonkers area. Yonkers is the largest Workforce outside of NYC. NYSDOL also allows us to bring forward funds.

V. Career Center Update

Career Center Manager, Carol Holman

Ms. Holman states that there were 174 contacts, 53 ITA's, and 787 Metrix users. The Youth Contractors are meeting the second quarter quota of 29 individuals by December 31, 2020. Ms. Holman discussed partnership with the Yonkers Police Department involving recidivism for youth.

VI. Business Services Update

Business Liaison, Lillian Morales

Ms. Morales states there are 12 OJT contracts this quarter, 31 employers serviced with 15 new employers of the 31 employers. There are a total of 121 unique job orders and 605 (per each listing) in the current NYSDOL AOSOS. Ms. Morales is utilizing zoom conferencing to provide business services. There are no in person events.

Ms. Hollman: Business services is looking into providing virtual job fairs.

Mr. McGrail: There will be a virtual job board with training information.

Mr. Sheffey: DOL staff are mandated to work on UI cases through 4-5 different units. Mr. Sheffey states that 10%-50% of cases are fraud. Fraud has overwhelmed the UI system. Mr. Sheffey discussed staffing at the Career Center. There is no future date of when things will change.

Mr. Mascetta Discussed the construction of the Hudson River Museum. Mr. Mascetta is requesting Board submit ballots.

Mr. William Mascetta announced motion to adjourn meeting. Mr. D'Angelo made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Naber made second motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.