



Job Readiness Work Group
Tuesday, February 21, 2012
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY

Meeting Notes

Work Group Members and Guests Present:

Kathleen Ballard	Melody Jason	Terry Paterson
Jeffery Bowen	Dave Johnson	Patrick Radtke
Walter Burton	Michele Lichy	David See
Cesar Cabrera	Brenda McDuffie	Scott Stencilik
Patty DeVinney	Carolyn Bright	Todd Trantum(g)
Amy Dvorak	Ryan Naples (g)	Eric Walker
Roscoe Garner	Heather Okoro	Rick Williamson
June Hoeflich	Christina Orsi	Pamela Henderson
Eva Hassett	Connie Krueger	Laura Fulton
(g) Guests		

Summary of Meeting:

The meeting was opened by Pamela Henderson and Cesar Cabrera. Introductions were given by all members and a review of past accomplishments/meetings with information on going forward to implement the Work Group's part of the Regional Strategic Plan. Christina Orsi was introduced and reported information/updates on the REDC and the role of the work groups. Cesar Cabrera spoke on the new RFP funding through NYSDOL that will be targeting youth and employment training. Three Regional Priority Programs were presented with a question and answer session. The session ended with members forming sub-groups and working on past recommendations to help move plan projects and job readiness issues forward. The work group will reconvene in Mid-April.

Minutes Outline:

PAST AND FUTURE GOALS

- Examine suggested programs and projects
 - Focus on current projects in the plan (with initial CFA) to achieve success
 - Evaluation needed in order to continue with funding
 - Progress reports due in Fall on performance measures/meeting objectives
 - Presented to council on actual job/trainings accomplished (milestones)
- 2nd round of funding approaching – need for consolidated applications
 - Longer timeframe for this period.
 - Bids open – early Summer
 - Awards - Fall

- Need to identify new prospects to council
- Reform agenda to put together statewide standards and goals
- Intent to use \$1B funding to leverage investment in small and expanding businesses locally
- Communication to the public to increase awareness and understanding of process
 - Marketing group to be established by the Regional Council to increase outreach
 - Send distribution list requests to Christina Orsi

RFP-NYS DOL YOUTH WORKS PROGRAM-

- Targeted Demographics
 - 16-24 year-old residents of the City of Buffalo
 - Dropped out of high school, on temporary assistance, veteran, or food stamp-eligible
- Goal is to place individuals in “in-demand sectors with a reasonable commute”
- End result is “high velocity income” (money spent within a short timeframe) which will have a quick impact on economy
- Program is flexible in terms of training and eligible employers
- Increase messaging regarding program and promote public awareness

DREAM IT DO IT WNY

- Goal is to increase interest in advanced manufacturing and well-paying, clean, viable careers
- Stipend for teachers to spend week touring manufacturing facilities
- Robotic training for students with competition
- Apprenticeship programs with the intent of hiring at completion
 - College tuition reimbursement for agreeing to be volunteer firemen
- Goals for training set by manufacturers, not schools, in order to increase chances of desired skill sets
- Desire to include all levels of education from teacher to upper administration to edify on message

SAY YES BUFFALO!

- Did not receive funding last round; applying for second round consideration
- Goal is to increase graduation rates in City of Buffalo
- Intent is to set up scholarships to allow students to attend post-secondary education despite financial barriers
 - Apprenticeships and internships also viable
- Create a college-attending culture and expectation in urban Buffalo
- Requirements:
 - City of Buffalo resident and attending school in City of Buffalo
 - Maintain 2.0 in college
- Pieces of program are transportable to other programs

FUTURE BUSINESS

- Explore child care issues for workers
- Identify new projects opportunities and applications for consideration
- Reforms affecting job readiness – clarify levels, needs and specifics.
Date of next meeting TBA (sometime after Easter)