

CNY Works Board of Directors Meeting
Friday February 9, 2024
CNY Works, 960 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13203
12:00pm – 1:30pm

Jeanne Morelli Board chair called the meeting to order...12:00pm

Thank you for joining us. Reminder to fill out and send back conflict of interest form. Welcome to those remote. When you speak please speak up for those that are remote.

Rosemary – announced Melissa Caci as new Deputy Director. Melissa introduced herself. Melissa will be heavily focused on operations and program. Announced Kim Frost – Director of Youth Services. Kim introduced herself. Guests from NYSDOL – Pam , Laura , Kerry Douglas-Duffy. Thank you for being here. Waiting for Dana Politis.

Jeanne - Rosemary going on maternity leave end of March, Melissa will run center while she's out. Kim coming in perfect time to run summer program. Welcome to both of you.

NYSDOL shared a PowerPoint – Laurie Thomson. Oversee sight wide team business services and rapid response. Talking about asylum seeker program and how connecting individuals to opportunities. Once asylum seekers are employment ready talk about jobs, UI, worker protections...governor putting a lot of effort into supporting this initiative. Portal set up for individuals who have their federal work authorization to easily connect to this initiative – this is one way to reach out to NYSDOL. Governor – if you are a business and have opportunities for these individuals to be hired let NYSDOL know. Once portal filled out by businesses NYSDOL will reach out to them to help move connections forward. Asylum seekers can also reach out for help being placed in jobs. Explained how they are doing outreach, recruitment Wednesdays. Hosted career fairs. Also helping with connection to other services like housing and food. Having weekly meetings with career centers who are doing amazing work. This is routine career center and business engagement meetings to match employees with jobs. Pam Miller – oversee all the career centers. Services being provided to asylum seekers, most coming in through NYC via various streams. Outsourcing staff to sites the asylum seekers are coming through to introduce NYSDOL and offer support for services. Gathering basic intake data name, language. A volunteer call center has been started, they are first outreach to asylum seekers, call and ask them where they are in work authorization process. So when referred to career centers we know where they are in being ready to work. Overview of what the career centers offer next as services. Each career center has different services – they should be a one stop shop for delivery of services including Title I, access VR services, youth services, etc...Career Center employment resources reviewed. Connecting CORSERA online services to customers for free. This can identify skills they have, where to upskill their services and possible job placements. Heard from a lot of businesses Digital literacy skills are lacking. Have interview stream and virtuality reality job exploration. We can serve asylum seekers whether they are work authorized or not. Do not refer asylum seekers to jobs if they aren't federal ready to work. Pending work authorization vs currently work authorized. Partnering with EOCs to provide ESL services. Have developed multiple partnerships throughout the state for all types of services to support these new Americans. Having a lot of meetings. Things change as we go, we pivot as needed. Question –

what is the process in getting federal work authorization? Work with some countries that are automatic admit to the US for asylum like Haiti. What is percentage of people coming getting work authorization? That's all federal and federal data, we aren't authorized to it. Are you seeing any asylum seekers coming in with skills for jobs we're hiring for like healthcare and the trades? Some are, some have college degrees, some don't. Dominic – applaud the state for doing this. Great example of New York State leading the way. How many of the 7000 you have placed into jobs? We aren't tracking that yet. Dominic – anything you can do to help employers engage in this service beyond the QR code? Yes, thank you please reach out to us. Discussion continued. Jeanne – thank you so much this has been a terrific conversation for all of us. If you have questions for NYSDOL please reach out to them.

Board Action items – check signature, authorize deputy director to sign checks. Dave Goodness move. Second ??? All in favor. No oppose.

Move funds from DW to adult. Authorized to do this. Needs board authorization. Moving \$500,000 from DW to Adult. May need to ask again for another \$200,000 - \$300,000 based on other grants that workers also will qualify for. Move? Second? All in favor. No oppose.

Consent Agenda – email sent a few days ago with all documents listed? Anyone want to pull anything out from consent? Hearing none, motion to approve consent. Move, second. All in favor. No oppose.

OSSO report – Nicole Schlater. Working on one stop partner career map. Update on that – passed out sample map. How do we promote the services that are available? (missed a lot due to papers being shuffled) started with Healthcare, cover page, second page map itself, third page more information about the job, training that would be available for the job. Partners are collecting feedback from their constituents right now. Feedback so far, make an electronic handprint so we have something we can hand out to people when they show interest in a career and link to the resources. Invite your feedback on the map itself, the content, the jobs included. Next update – how ??? Trying to work with CNY Works on the referral processes and having a PT person of CNY Works sit at OCC to share all the services that CNY Works can offer to job seekers. Jeanne – really like the map. Love it, it's great.

Executive Director updates – shared the organizational chart. Still a couple of vacant positions. Update on heavy construction fair with NYSDOL and NYSDOT very successful – thank you to Deka for the donation of refreshments. Statics shared (powerpoint). Peter N – great event, MJ agree they did most of the work getting it together.

Syracuse Build Chris Montgomery – Pathways progress report – statistics provided via powerpoint. Cohorts 4 and 5 statistics provided. Cohort 6 underway, began in January, taking place in Onondaga conference room while waiting for furniture for 3rd floor space. Other info – since January 2022...we don't shut the door to anyone who applies and not selected, we refer them to other services we work with like adult and youth programs. Breakdown provided – some of the data coming from the city ARPA report. Build Ready – the building maintenance numbers so high because we developed internships with these individuals with SHA and once done the program were offered jobs. Challenges reviewed – staffing it's only Chris, funding up and down throughout the year why pathway cohort 6 delayed, transferring contracts from CenterState over to CNY Works, etc...Syracuse Build: Progress Report shout out to the trades in helping Chris not

lose individuals for cohort 6 due to being short staffed. Rosemary – Syracuse Build has always had funding, but CNY Works had to apply for line of credit to cover expenses before we get money from grants to pay for Syracuse build expenses, Deputy Owens asked about CNY Works being on the ETPL and being a training provider we cannot do that. Question – tracking long term retention? Yes checks and balances in place. Al – Chris outstanding job for the work that you’ve done and the resources you’ve pulled together. Deka agree with Al, doing great work. 112 applied, you took 30, how many of the 112 were qualified? If we had more training capacity how many could you have taken? Around 37 for cohort 6. For cohort 5 around 52. Mari – my programs aren’t full, we have the capacity, they aren’t applying and aren’t full. Welding program isn’t full, construction trades not full. Deka – the folks we conceptualized they like the connection with the trades and the case management that Syracuse Build is offering them. Mari – CNY Works pays for them to attend our program and we have a social worker on staff. Chris – some people don’t want to go through the 6 month program. Mari – I have 100% placement in my welding program. Deka – you pay the people in Syracuse Build a stipend but when going to BOCES they aren’t paid a stipend. Eric Peckham Seeing a lot of redundancy in the area. On Ramp doesn’t even include CNY Works. How come there isn’t a map that people can follow on where to go to do what, if I’m confused people are also confused. Eric – Dominic what is your take on all of this? Not a duplication, but different pathways for the same end result. Most important that people are getting jobs on the back end. Syracuse Build intentionally designed to get Syracuse residents into these jobs. On Ramp State launched to replicate a successful program in Buffalo. Will tell you unequivocally when we start this process I told State CNY Works needs to be involved.

Board Retreat recap – Rosemary has an entire presentation on this. Will be presented at the April Board meeting, we are out of time.

Thank you for being here. Meeting closed at 1:38pm.