

Broome Tioga Workforce NY WDB Meeting

March 22, 2024

12 noon

**WDB Members:**

In person attendance: Shawn Atkinson, Len Basso (Vice Chair), Danielle Britton, Tom Crowley, Allyn W. Jones, Jonathan Layish, Justin Marchuska, Brian Scanlon, Karen Shelp (Chair), Ken Smith, Rebecca Stone, Andrew Tunison, Brittany Woodburn, Shawn Yetter

Zoomed or called in: Maureen Abbott, Chris Powers

Excused: Michael Atchie, Myra J. Bobo-Pickens, David Goodness, Mary Hill, Walter Melzer, Robert Messler, Paula Perna, Teresa Renna, Frank Stento

**Staff and guests:**

In person attendance: Robert Murphy (RCM – Host, BTWF-Broome), Erin Evans, (Tioga CCE), Dave Goguen (BTWF- Broome), Barrett Grant (IBEW Local 325), Christian Harris (NYS DOL), Tim Simonds (BTWF-Broome), Holly Tracy (Broome CCE), JP Tschang (BTWF-Broome)

Zoomed or called in: Jackie Burdick (BTWF – Tioga), Joanne Coates (Tioga CCE), Sean Lanning (Tioga Economic Development & Planning), Rick Materese (Youth Council), Lisa Weston-Bialy (Tioga CCE)

Handouts: Agenda, WDB minutes for 12/15/23 meeting, Draft Executive Committee minutes for 3/15/24 meeting, Broome CCE Career Bound WDB Report PY23 3rd Quarter, Career Bound Newsletter March 2024, Tioga CCE WDB Report PY23 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, Youth contracts fiscal status as at 2/29/24, Draft Priority of Service Policy, Binghamton MSA Labor Market Profile January 2024, Unemployment Rate Rankings by County January 2024

I. Karen Shelp as Chair called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

II. Introduction of Members and Guests

RCM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Barrett Grant. Barrett will be appointed soon by the Broome County Legislature to replace Walt Melzer as a representative from IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Local 325.

III. Review and approval of previous WDB meeting minutes:

Minutes for the meeting held on December 15, 2023 were reviewed. Motion to accept December 15, 2023 WDB meeting minutes. Len Basso 1<sup>st</sup>, Rebecca Stone 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

IV. New Business

1) Board Member changes:

a. Notification of renewal of Board members' terms:

The following Board members' renewed terms were noted -

Board Member	Term expiring
Chris Powers	12/31/2026
Brian Scanlon	12/31/2026
Karen Shelp	12/31/2026

A welcome was extended to new Board member, Brittany Woodburn who replaced LeeAnn Tinney from Tioga County Economic and Planning:

Board Member	Term expiring
Brittany Woodburn (Tioga County Economic Development & Planning)	12/31/25

Thanks was extended to LeeAnn for her years of tireless service to the Board.

2) Youth Program status:

o Broome CCE

- Holly Tracy informed the Board about Broome CCE's status for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of PY23.
- The Career Bound newsletter was distributed. It included success stories from Youth program participants who had overcome barriers to be fully employed.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report which had been circulated listed the full set of activities for Broome CCE.
- 52 out of the required 60 youth were enrolled for the year, 38 youths were employed by local employers like Strange Brew, McIntosh, Helping Celebrate Abilities (HCA), Taco Bell, Popeye's and others.
- Broome CCE program participants have been attending job fairs together with program educators to seek out opportunities in the food and customer service sectors, childcare centers and CDL A needs.
- 9 youths had been enrolled in OJTs with local employers with one about to start at Willow Run soon. Out of these, one youth did not complete the OJT.
- 6 youths enrolled in vocational training in the LPN and Residential Electricity programs at BT BOCES, CDL A training with Sage Trucking and OITP Manufacturing training at BTWF.
- Broome CCE is currently fully staffed but had faced a staff shortage in the Dec-Jan period when two program educators left. Broome CCE is trying to fulfill the Youth

Work Experience requirement of 20% contract sum to be spent on Youth Work Experience activities.

- One youth who had exited the program reached back out for a reference and succeeded in securing a job as well as acquiring their first house. Program participants may reach out at any time after exiting the program, which has an active follow up period of one year after exit.

○ Tioga CCE

- Lisa Weston-Bialy gave the report for Tioga CCE.
- The new Executive Director for Tioga CCE, Dr. Kristi Snyder, joined the team on March 18, 2024 and they also have a new Finance Manager, Joanne Coates.
- Tioga CCE's report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter had been distributed and stated that 39 youths were enrolled for PY23 which was significantly above the required minimum of 25 per annum. The staff have been working very hard and this was already at capacity for PY23. A wait list for PY24 may have to be started if the numbers reach 40.
- A full list of activities was contained in the report.
- Lisa shared that enrolment had been helped greatly by relationships with the local school districts, DSS, probation offices, CPS, local crisis intervention centers and GED classes.
- 19 youths were in GED and 11 enrolled in training at Google certificate classes at SUNY Broome, Phlebotomy class, driver training, welding, HERO and vet assistant classes.
- One success story was a participant who had been homeless and was helped with transportation, cell phone, work clothes and work ethic training to secure a job. DSS visited the participant in her tent to get the necessary paperwork signed and enrolled. She was successful in obtaining housing and is very grateful to the program for assisting her.
- Another participant who had been in foster care and was undergoing substance abuse treatment successfully obtained work as a vet assistant.
- An encouraging story was how the participants assist one another - a former participant who successfully set up his own tattoo parlor business is now able to help a new participant interested in the same career.

3) Youth Program fiscal status @ 2/29/24:

- JP Tschang referred to the handout listing Broome CCE and Tioga CCE's claims received up to 3/13/24 for period ending 2/29/24.
- Tioga CCE claimed \$123,467.25 for 20 months (July 2022 – Feb 2024) in PY22/23. The last claim received was for Nov. 2023. The claims were 38% under-claimed (last quarter underclaimed by 43%).
- As mentioned by Lisa, there has been a change in personnel with new Executive Director, Dr. Kristi Snyder, joining Tioga CCE recently and a new Fiscal Manager on board, Joanne Coates. Meantime claims were handled by Cornell shared services.

- Youth work experience was \$25,986.71 and was 35% under-claimed (same as last quarter). Tioga CCE has been keeping up with the minimum 20% requirement for Youth Work Experience expenditure per agreement.
- Broome CCE claimed \$38,129.00 for 20 months (July 2022 – Feb 2024) in PY22/23. This was 5% under-budget and work experience at \$30,325.85 was 39% under-claimed (Last quarter was 41% under-claimed).
- Broome CCE had a changeover of staffing which resulted in a low claim of \$4.6k for Jan 2024 compared to around \$10k for the other months. This will result in Broome CCE being within budget for PY23. Although the activity level is high and much appreciated Broome CCE needs to achieve 20% Youth Work Experience expenditure per agreement. Currently it is at 12.7%.
- RCM shared that budget talks with Broome and Tioga CCE are being held to increase the budget for PY24.
- Lisa brought up the issue about spending on In-School Youth (ISY) rather than Out of School Youth (OSY) per their contract. Discussion will be held on whether they are allowed to spend 50% on ISY as in school would be an ideal place to approach youth seeking the next steps in their lives rather than after high school. The current allowance on ISY spending is 25% of contract amount.
- Per Lisa, Tioga CCE has two grants which will end on March 31<sup>st</sup>. These grants focused on In School Youth where at-risk youth could sign up for paid apprenticeships at their schools. This reduced truancy, improved grades and attendance and increased support for the youths. Schools are interested in this program and could WIOA funding be expanded to ISY spending?
- Len Basso raised a question on the relationship with the high schools, it used to be not so good in the past.
- RCM commended Lisa for her involvement in the high schools and said that the NYS laws have recently changed for individuals with disabilities such that transition plans after high school are possible. Rather than all kids aiming to get into college after high school some students may feel more inclined to look for jobs after high school and that is where apprenticeships and career centers have come to be created in schools. Preparing kids for jobs is seen to be as important a process for graduating from high school as preparing kids for college.
- RCM also brought to the Board's attention the success of the first NYSDOL teacher ambassador program in 2023 which saw 4 teachers from local schools being introduced to local employers and jobs.
- The success is attributable to the collaboration between DOE and DOL , BT BOCES' involvement through their Career & Technical Education (CTE) program and BT Workforce's contributions through the Youth Council.

#### 4) Transfer of \$200,000 from PY23 DW to PY23 Adult

- JP shared that the transfer of \$200,000 from PY23 DW to PY 23 Adult will be more in line with what the PY22 funds were for each program.

- PY23 DW will be \$453,794.40 (PY22 was \$426,634.33) and PY23 Adult total will be \$756,073.80 (PY22 Adult total was \$669,213.22).
- Classification of participants into DW category is more stringent than for the Adult category.
- As it stands, PY23 Adult was already 50% spent as of February 2024 reporting.

Motion to approve transfer \$200,000 from PY23 DW to PY23 Adult funds resulting in \$453,794.40 for PY23 DW and \$756,073.80 for PY23 Adult. Len Basso 1<sup>st</sup>, Brian Scanlon 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

5) Policy update – Revision to Priority of Service in Adult Program Policy

- RCM informed the Board that the revision to the Priority of Service policy was needed to comply with federal requirements to achieve 50.1% adults receiving services to be recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals or be basic skills deficient.
- Other parts of the revised policy would update the recording requirements for this change. The Centers are already carrying out the steps to ensure that 50.1% of adults served are part of the priority population.

Motion to approve the updates to the Priority of Service in Adult Program to achieve 50.1% adults receiving services to be recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals or be basic skills deficient and to ensure proper recording of the activities. Rebecca Stone 1<sup>st</sup>, Justin Marchuska, 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

6) Grant discussion:

- NENY – Cooperation with Binghamton University, SUNY Broome and BT BOCES
  - RCM shared that Stacey Johnson, Director of Workforce Development at NENY, will be available at the next LWDB meeting to share more about NENY's progress so far.
- Engines Grant
  - This new grant will commence after the conclusion of NENY's first 3 years into the establishment of Upstate region as a battery technology hub.
  - The territories covered will include more than NENY did, expanding into Schoharie County and the areas west of Lake Eire.
  - Total grant will be over 10 years and will total \$181m, \$165 m from the Federal Govt and \$16m from the State.

7) Youth Council:

- Broome County – Rick Materese
  - Rick shared that meetings have been held with school guidance counselors and other youth agencies.
  - On May 8<sup>th</sup>, a major job fair will be held at the Arena with capacity for 60 businesses for the local high school seniors. Approximately 400 students are anticipated to attend, with almost all the school districts responding positively.
  - A teacher from Maine Endwell, Kyle Tibbits, has prepared an interview video to be circulated to high schools.
- Tioga County – Sean Lanning

- Student Worker Financing – OA presented at Talent Supply table on how to pay student workers who work or intern in the school district. This helps teach students how to work before they enter the workforce and funnels tax dollars back into the community. Students have access to gas money, etc.
- Twin Tiers Regional Job Fair – It was held at Chemung Innovation Center due to space requirement. 90+ businesses were in attendance with 400 students and 200 community members. Schools which attended were Owego, S-VE, Waverly, Athens, Elmira, Thomas Edison, GST BOCES, Towanda, Campbell Savona; no Broome County schools came.
- Next year’s fair will be on March 25, 2025.
- Career Center update – Steps are underway at Spencer-Van Etten to hose Career Center staff in the school one day per week to focus on job placement.
- Education Workforce Coordinator (EWC) position – Sean has ended his grant-funded EWC position and stepped into a permanent Community Development Specialist position at Tioga Economic Planning & Development. He will continue working on workforce development.

8) Labor Market Report – Christian Harris

- Christian Harris from NYSDOL reported on the latest statistics from the Labor Dept.
- Binghamton MSA’s unemployment rate of 4.8% for January 2024 was worse than the 4.5% from Jan 2023 and seems to be ticking up.
- Christian reported that private sector jobs showed positive trends but were still below pre-Covid levels. Local private sector jobs were at 98% pre-Covid and State was at 99% pre-Covid.
- If local non-farm jobs went up to more than 100,000 employed, that would be pre-Covid level.
- Feds are tightening lending to address inflation.
- Economists pushing off recession fears that had loomed earlier.
- Labor force numbers are up since last year but still have sizeable job openings. Someone coming out of retirement will bump up numbers for the workforce.
- Older workers, younger workers and women workers are coming back, women workers coming back faster than men.

9) Any other matters

a) Apprenticeships from State

- RCM spoke on the apprenticeships from State. Work is currently under way to clear up the ambiguity in the rules about registered apprenticeships in schools.
- RCM intends to have discussions with local trade groups and businesses about the trades training center on the East side of Binghamton.
- Danielle Britton shared that community colleges are being encouraged to provide instructions on non-traditional sectors (e.g. healthcare); a round table discussion is coming up.
- RCM noted that at the recent NYATEP conference talk was about the potential for 50% of WIOA funds being funneled to apprenticeships and NYATEP is against this move. Would colleges get the funds to do this instead?

b) Future WDB Meeting in 2024 –

June 21, 2024

September 20, 2024

December 13, 2024

c) There being no further matters, motion to adjourn the meeting.

Len Basso 1<sup>st</sup>, Brian Scanlon 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 1 pm.