



Workforce Development Board of Sullivan, Inc.

Jacob Lerner, Chair
Laura Quigley, Executive Director

Minutes December 10, 2024 - Full Board Meeting

Members Attending: Jacob Lerner- Board Chairman, Dory Alport – Board Vice Chairman, Claire Taggart- Board Secretary, Denise Burgio- Board Treasurer, Robert Green – Immediate Past Board Chair, Jim Boxberger, Heather Brown, Olga Campos, Stacy Cohen, Nicole Congelosi, Robert Dufour, Christine Goodhart, Gene Kelly, Ashley Leavitt, LaQuesha Mathhews- Reed, Joan Patterson, Dr. David Potash, Chris Schmidt, Rich Whitney, Donna Willi.

Others Attending: Laura Quigley- WDB, Executive Director, Jaime Schmeiser – SUNY Sullivan, Sharon Ferber, Division of Community Resources, Administrative Assistant,

This meeting called to order at 8:02 AM. Quorum was met with 20 voting members present.

Board Business:

1. Approval of September 10, 2024 meeting minutes.
Moved: Heather Brown, Seconded – Donna Willi, All in Favor
2. Resolution – Policy Update to WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Eligibility Consideration for Training Services.

Adults who are employed and looking to upgrade their skills must meet certain criteria to access financial support for training services through the WIOA program. One criterion, set by the local Workforce Board, is that an individual must be earning \$17 per hour or less. In an effort to increase the number of people that can be served, this resolution will increase that hourly wage to \$21/hour.

Therefore, from this date, an individual who is employed and earning \$21.00 per hour or less would be eligible for consideration for WIOA Adult training services.

Motion moved by Jim Boxberger, Seconded by Stacey Cohen, All in Favor.

3. Directors Report Highlights -Laura Quigley, Executive Director
 - The minimum wage for upstate New York will be \$15.50 per hour effective January 1, 2025.
 - On January 1, 2025 the New York's Paid Parental Leave law will go into effect. This law will require private sector employers to provide pregnant employees with 20 hours of paid parental leave, ensuring that pregnant employees can take time off for medical appointments related to pregnancy without fear of losing income. This law applies to all private employers in NYS regardless of employee thresholds, and applies to both full and part time employees. Pregnancy related health care includes physical exams, medical procedures, monitoring, testing and discussions with a health care provider related to pregnancy.

The personal time may be taken in hourly increments, and compensation provided must be at the employee's regular rate of pay or the applicable minimum wage, which ever is greater. Employer are not required to pay an employee for unused prenatal personal leave at the time of separation from employment. More information about Paid Parental Personal Leave and how it effects an employer's paid leave policies can be found at ny.gov/prenatal.

- The SC Legislature passed a resolution allowing the County, through CWD, to contract with SUNY Sullivan as lead and BOCES as partner. This agreement will formalize the occupational trainings that have been piloted over the past year.
- The full allocation for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program year 2024 (PY24) has been received.
- NYS Department of Labor (NYSDOL) applied for \$10 million in Round 3 of the Federal National Dislocated Worker Emergency grant to address the impact of the opioid crisis on employment. The USDOL has since capped state awards at \$1.5 million. We have informed NYSDOL that we are still interested in this funding. If awarded, the Center for Workforce Development (CWD) will provide employment and training services for individuals who have been impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- The NYSDOL has issued guidance (Technical Advisory 20-2) for renewal of the system Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). We have received the final version of the MOU and will be sending it out for signatures.
- Third Quarter ridership for Move Sullivan was 37,642. Expansion by three additional service routes will begin in January and February 2025.
- Sullivan County's unemployment rate was 2.9% for October 2024 down from 3.5% from October of 2023.

Full report is attached.

4. Center for Workforce Development – Laura Quigley for One Stop Operator, Loreen Gebelein

- The annual WIOA fiscal and program audits are underway. These are conducted by NYSDOL fiscal oversight and program monitoring staff.
- Two in-house recruitments this month. One on the 10th and one on the 17th. All branches of the military service and Delaware Valley Job Corp (DVJC) along with local employers will be on site.
- CWD has received an additional \$100,000 for On the Job Trainings (OJT). These trainings provide businesses assistance with salary while training new employees.
- Disability Coordinator – Scott Curry served 178 participants, enrolled 128 disabled workers and found employment for 26 participants.
- Security Guard training is ending on the 12th.
- There are plans for Electrical training to begin in March at BOCES.

5. Dr. David Potosh gave a brief overview of the college then introduced Jaime Schmeiser, the Director of Workforce at SUNY Sullivan. Ms. Schmeiser gave a brief Partner Report to the Board.

6. Update on proposed reauthorization of WIOA- Laura Quigley, Executive Director
Ms. Quigley reviewed changes in congressional proposed bill, *A Stronger Workforce for America*.
7. Discussion of hard skill training needs – Workforce Board
A discussion with the board ensued regarding hard skill training needs.

With no further business to discuss Chairman Lerner called for a motion to adjourn at 9:05 am.
Moved: Stacy Cohen, Seconded: Claire Taggart All in Favor

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025