



Workforce Development Board of Sullivan, Inc.

Jacob Lerner, Chair
Laura Quigley, Executive Director

Minutes February 11, 2025 - 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, Dawn Ciorciari, Nicole Congelosi, James Dannic, Loreen Gebelein, Christine Goodhart, Ashley Leavitt, LaQuesha Mathhews- Reed, Joan Patterson, Dr. David Potash, Ray Stanishia, Rich Whitney, Donna Willi.

Others Attending: Laura Quigley- WDB, Executive Director, Jaime Schmeiser – SUNY Sullivan,

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

Board Business:

1. Approval of December 10, 2024 meeting minutes.
Moved: Heather Brown, Seconded – Donna Willi, All in Favor
2. Resolution – To allow for the closing of the Board's Wheels III savings account and the transfer of those funds in to the Board's Wheels III checking account both held at Jeff Bank and the subsequent shutting down of the program.

The Wheels for Work program provided low interest, subsidized car loans and related supportive services to parents whose income was at or below 200% of poverty or they were in receipt of or eligible for Temporary Assistance. The last car loan was completed in 2019. There have been exhaustive searches for funding to continue the program to no avail.

The funding for this program is through the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and any program closing procedures will be followed.

The Wheels for Work III program has a checking account with a balance of \$1,839.73 (12/31/24) and a savings account with a balance of \$5,313.63 (12/31/24).

The program allows for supportive services in the form of care repairs and/or car insurance payments for eligible participants. The Executive Director to the Board and the Director of the Center for Workforce Development will allocate the remaining funds for these supportive services.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Workforce Development Board approves the consolidation of bank accounts and the subsequent ending of the Wheels for Work III program according to the policies of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

Motion made by Jim Boxberger, Seconded by Dory Alport, All in Favor.

3. Directors Report Highlights -Laura Quigley, Executive Director

- The minimum wage for upstate New York is \$15.50 per hour effective January 1, 2025.
- The Full allocation for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) Program Year 2024 (PY'24) have been received. New York State had a reduction of funding resulting in a -8.53% (-\$52, 862) loss in overall funding for Sullivan County.
- The US Department of Labor (USDOL) has released funding estimates for States for Program Year 2025 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). New York will see a reduction of roughly 11%. No figures for local areas are available at this time.
- There was a congressional effort to complete the reauthorization of WIOA before the end of 2024. It was not successful and the effort will have to begin anew.
- The four original Move Sullivan public routes have been updated. There are two new routes that started on January 21, 2025. The routes provide 5 1hour loops in the Villages of Liberty and Monticello starting at 5:25 am and ending at 5:50 pm. An additional 1hour loop (Route E) will begin in February covering Livingston Manor, Roscoe, Callicoon Center, Jeffersonville, Youngsville, White Sulphur Springs and Liberty.
- Sullivan County's unemployment rate was 3.0 % for November 2024 down from 3.6% from November of 2023.

Full report is attached.

4. Dr. David Potash gave brief overview of the College and then introduced Jaime Schmeiser, the Director of Workforce at SUNY Sullivan. Ms. Schmeiser gave a brief Partner report to the Board.

5. One Stop Operator Report – Loreen Gebelein, Director, Center for Workforce Development

- Full report is Attached
- Review of the 2024 Center for Workforce Annual Report – Full report Attached
- Review of WIOA Outreach plan awarded to Bold Gold Media (11/1/2024 – 10/31/2026).

6. Board Education - Loreen Gebelein gave a presentation to the Board on the On the Job Training (OJT) program which gives businesses assistance with employee salaries during the training process.

With no further business to discuss Chairman Lerner called for a motion to adjourn at 9:07 am.
Moved: Claire Taggart, Seconded: Heather Brown All in Favor

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025