

Town of Hempstead
Local Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
HempsteadWorks Career Center

April 20, 2016

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was convened at 9:36 A.M. by Henry Graber, CPA /Workforce Development Board (WDB) Chairman. Mr. Graber asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes

The Chairman indicated that all of the members received a copy of the minutes from our meeting of December 9, 2015 in the mail and asked if there were any changes or corrections necessary. A motion to approve the minutes was offered by William Wahlig, seconded by Elvira Lovaglio-Duncan and approved by the members.

III. Disability Employment Initiative

Maria Lombardi, HempsteadWorks Disability Resource Coordinator, provided an overview of the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Grant Project. Ms. Lombardi stated that HempsteadWorks was selected to participate as one of four pilot sites under this project. The pilot sites deploy Disability Resource Coordinators (DRCs) in the One-Stop Career Centers to provide a value-added service for people who self-identify as an individual with a disability. She indicated that the project is funded under a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) to the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) under the fourth round of DEI grants. Ms. Lombardi stated that the term of the project is October, 2013 through January, 2017. She stated that the outcomes to date include the following:

- Number Served: 789
- Enrolled in Training: 57
- Entered Employment: 255

Ms. Lombardi also distributed a fact sheet and a description of the DEI Project, both of which were published by USDOL. She also informed the members that the grant includes funding for classroom training and on-the-job training. She stated that our project was one of the best performers in the state in terms of expenditure of the DEI Training Funds. Mr. Graber asked what type of jobs the DEI participants qualified for. Ms. Lombardi answered that their qualifications are as varied as the workforce as a whole. Mr. Graber asked if the DEI participants are loyal employees. Ms. Lombardi stated that they are very loyal and productive. She stated that employers often seek out individuals with disabilities because of the strengths they bring to the workplace. She provided an example of Apple, which recruits individuals with Asperger's Syndrome. Barbara Weissberg inquired to what extent partnerships that have been developed with other agencies that serve individuals with disabilities. Ms. Lombardi stated that productive partnerships have been developed and then she cited ACCES-VR as a positive example. Mr. Graber asked what is being done to publicize the DEI Project. Edward Kenny directed the attendees to review a flyer that was provided in the meeting handouts that was designed for this purpose.

IV. Consolidated Funding Application Grants 4.0 and 5.0

Yvonne Morrissey, Hempsteadworks Supervisor of Career and Training Services, provided an update on the Consolidated Funding Application Grant Projects. She stated that the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Grants are funded through the New York State Regional Economic Development Council Grants competition. In Round Four (4.0) of the competition, we were awarded funding under the NYSDOL Unemployed Worker Training Grant. The term of the grant is April, 2015 to July, 2016. The grant funds the HempsteadWorks Sector Strategies Project – Health Care Sector. The target group is long-term unemployed dislocated workers. The project is a sectoral training program focused on the Health Care Technology and Direct Care Industry. Ms. Morrissey explained that under CFA 5.0, we were again awarded funding under the NYSDOL Unemployed Worker Training Grant. The term of the grant is June, 2016 to June, 2017. The grant funds the HempsteadWorks Sector Strategies Project – Information Technology Sector. The target group is dislocated workers; however, under this grant, the dislocated workers do not need to be long-term unemployed. The project is a sectoral training program focused on the Information Technology (IT) Industry. Ms. Morrissey referred the members to review fact sheets about the grants and outreach flyers that were included in the meeting handout. She indicated that the number of enrollments for CFA 4.0 has increased to twenty-three (23) to date.

Mr. Kenny explained that in 2011 the Governor established a Regional Economic Development Council in each region of New York State. The purpose of the Councils is to illicit local input in the distribution of state funding and to ensure coordination of local projects.

He indicated that the Hempstead/Long Beach Local Board was the only board in New York State to receive a grant under the CFA 1.0 competition, and that we were one of two to receive grants under the CFA 4.0 and 5.0 competitions. Mr. Kenny also explained that the sectoral training projects developed under these CFA grants corresponded to the models that are encouraged by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Scott Martella indicated that the CFA grants process is very competitive and that the Board is to be commended for its work on these opportunities. Chairman Graber thanked the members of the Board who sit on the Long Island Regional Council for their support.

V. Superstorm Sandy Block Grant - Project RENEW

Greg Becker, Deputy Commissioner of the Town of Hempstead Department of Occupational Resources, indicated that he would describe the Superstorm Sandy Grant Project; however, before doing so he requested a few minutes to describe the recent visit of several dignitaries to the HempsteadWorks Career Center. Mr. Becker reported that on February 8, 2016, Supervisor Anthony J. Santino hosted an event for veterans at the HempsteadWorks Career Center. The event was attended by the Supervisor, along with Michael Michaud, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans, Congresswoman Kathleen Rice, and several other federal and state officials, in addition to members of the government and non-profit community that serve veterans. The event included a round table discussion regarding services to veterans, as well as a tour of the HempsteadWorks Career Center. Deputy Commissioner Becker informed the members that the event was widely covered by local media and was a great success.

Mr. Becker stated that the Board had received a Super Storm Sandy Block Grant from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. He explained that the grant supports Project Resilient, Educated, Newly Employed Workers (RENEW). The purpose of the project is to provide job-related education, training and placement opportunities to the most economically vulnerable Sandy-impacted individuals within the Long Island Region to increase their resilience, from an occupational standpoint, in the face of future, similar events. Mr. Becker indicated that the term of the grant is July, 2014 to September, 2016. He also referred to a handout that included the following outcomes to date:

Performance Measure	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
Served	60	117	195%
Enrolled in training	60	88	147%
Increased occupational skills	60	88	147%
Increased credentials	40	39	97%
Employment	40	38	95%

Mr. Becker acknowledged the good work of the HempsteadWorks staff in making Project RENEW a success.

VI. Old Business/New Business

Commissioner Ana-Maria Hurtado informed the members that we have received preliminary information from the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) that indicates that our local area will suffer a substantial cut in Formula Funding under WIOA in Program Year 2016, which covers July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. She stated that this reduction follows a significant reduction that was imposed in Program Year 2015, which covers the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Dr. Richard E. Dibble asked who the Board could contact to express its opinion regarding these cuts. Commissioner Hurtado explained that it would be best to wait until further clarification is provided by NYSDOL before a response is developed. She advised that the Board will be informed as more information is received. Mr. Becker indicated that the issue of funding reductions was discussed with Assistant Secretary Michaud and with Congresswoman Rice at the time of their visit for the veterans event. Mr. Kenny informed the members that the **HempsteadWorks Decades Report** was included in their handouts. He explained that the report chronicles the evolution of workforce programs in the Town of Hempstead/City of Long Beach over the decades of the 1970s, 1980, 1990s and the first two decades of the new millennium. It includes fast facts, grant projects, successful prototypes developed, success stories, testimonials, and descriptions of programs and services developed over five decades.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Graber thanked the attendees for their participation in the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Mark Goldstein. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wahlig and adopted by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 A.M.