

**TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD/CITY OF LONG BEACH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD YOUTH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**HEMPTSEADWORKS CAREER CENTER**

**May 16, 2018**

Attendees:

Elizabeth Ajasin, DOOR  
Myesha Arvon, Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc.  
Gregory Becker, Commissioner, DOOR  
Dr. Richard Dibble, Chairperson, New York Institute of Technology  
Henry Holley, Town of Hempstead Housing Authority  
Ana-Maria Hurtado, WDB Director, DOOR  
Edward Kenny, DOOR  
Maria Lombardi, Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc.  
Rosa Murciano, New York Community Bancorp  
Yvonne Morrissey, DOOR  
Alan Nachman, Diversified Microsystems, Inc.  
Kurt Rockensies, DOOR  
Veronica Rose-Craig, ACCES-VR  
Cherri-Anne Rougier, Job Corps  
Sal Scibetta, DOOR

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 9:47 A.M. by Dr. Richard Dibble, Chairperson. At his request, each of the attendees introduced themselves.

**II. Review of Minutes**

Dr. Dibble asked the members to review the minutes from the meeting of November 16, 2017. A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Alan Nachman, seconded by Gregory Becker, and accepted by the Committee.

**III. Youth Services Proposal Review**

Dr. Dibble introduced Sal Scibetta, who described the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for In-School Youth Program Services. Mr. Scibetta explained that each In-School Youth program has a summer component in which youth are given jobs for the summer. They will work from July 5, 2018 to August 17, 2018. He provided the following documents for the committee to review:

1. Fact sheets pertaining to both the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Year-Round Youth Program and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Summer Youth Employment Program. The fact sheets summarized how the programs would operate, along with how their budgets were calculated;
2. Budget summaries pertaining to each program, which listed the amounts requested by each proposed program operator.

The Committee reviewed summaries of the proposals submitted by the following organizations:

- 1) Baldwin Public Schools
- 2) Five Towns Community Center
- 3) Hempstead Public Schools
- 4) Roosevelt Public Schools
- 5) Sewanhaka Public Schools
- 6) Uniondale Public Schools
- 7) Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc.

Edward Kenny stated that although there will be a 10% increase in WIOA funding for the upcoming program year, minimum wage has also increased. Youth will be paid \$11.00 an hour versus last year's hourly rate of \$10.00.

Veronica Rose-Craig asked when the students for the In-School Youth program are selected. Mr. Kenny responded that students are being selected for the program now, but the process has been difficult, especially in one district which has not yet selected a youth coordinator.

A motion to recommend to the Local Workforce Development Board that the WIOA proposals be approved as submitted was offered by Ms. Rose-Craig, seconded by Mr. Nachman, and adopted by the Committee. A motion to recommend to the Local Workforce Development Board that the TANF proposals be approved as submitted was offered by Ana-Maria Hurtado, seconded by Rosa Murciano, and adopted by the Committee.

#### **IV. Out-of-School and In-School Youth Programs Report**

Dr. Dibble introduced Myesha Arvon, Youth Services Coordinator, who provided a summary of how the WIOA Out-of-School Youth program operates. Ms. Arvon explained that Out-of-School Youth Services are contracted by the Town of Hempstead Department of Occupational Resources (DOOR) to EAC Network and Nassau BOCES. Currently, there are 35 active participants in the program. Ms. Arvon indicated that to be eligible for the program, youth must be between the ages of 18 and 24 and have at least

one barrier to employment. Youth enrolled at EAC and BOCES have access to occupational skills training and job placement services.

At Dr. Dibble's request, Ms. Arvon also summarized the In-School Youth Program. Eligibility for the program requires that the youth be attending school, is a low-income individual and has at least one barrier to employment. A total of 97 individuals participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program for Program Year 2017, 66 of which were enrolled under TANF. Participants spent time doing work experience and related education and occupational learning activities. These activities included career development, leadership workshops, an academic component, and exercises available in CareerZone.

## **V. Disability Employment Initiative – Round VIII Update**

Dr. Dibble introduced Maria Lombardi, the Disability Resource Coordinator for the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Round VIII grant. Ms. Lombardi explained that the mission of the grant is to provide training to and employ youth with disabilities by making existing Career Pathways programs inclusive and accessible for them, specifically for those between the ages of 14 and 24. The DEI project relies heavily on strong collaborations and partnerships with agencies dedicated to serving youth with disabilities. By forming a Career Pathways to Employment Workgroup, we can expand the capacity of the One-Stop Center to serve them.

Ms. Rose-Craig asked how all our agencies can work together without interfering in each other's programs. Ms. Lombardi responded that each youth goes through an assessment that determines their individual needs, and Ms. Arvon said that these assessments help to identify which services they need. Cherri-Anne Rougier added that working collaboratively forces schools to look at each youth as an individual rather than as part of a group.

Henry Holly asked what is being done to help youth because employers are finding that they are not qualified for jobs. Ms. Arvon responded that in both the In-School and Out-of-School Youth Programs, youth are taught soft skills, such as learning to communicate effectively. They are also taught how to dress for and behave in an interview.

Mr. Kenny added that this discussion is important for the DEI grant because it raises questions and concerns we can use to understand how best to work collaboratively to help this specific population. It can be difficult recruiting customers that qualify for services under the grant because the eligibility requirements are stringent. Ms. Lombardi and Ms. Arvon have been visiting high schools to recruit customers that can be tracked as they graduate. Ms. Hurtado said that the HempsteadWorks Business Liaison is also working with the Hempstead Chamber of Commerce so they can be more active within our organization.

**VI. EAC Network – Out-of-School Youth Program**

Dr. Dibble introduced Shereen Goodson, Program Director at EAC. Ms. Goodson described the training activities that youth customers are involved with in her organization, along with career and job placement services. She explained the importance of individualized care and attention for each youth in the program; doing so allows each youth the option to choose the programs in which they are most interested. Ms. Goodson then shared stories of two youth who were enrolled in training programs and are now employed.

**VII. Funding Update**

Dr. Dibble asked Ms. Hurtado to give an update on DOOR’s funding. Ms. Hurtado explained that the preliminary allocation provided by The New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) for Program Year 2018 is about 10.3% more than the allocation for Program Year 2017. In addition to increased WIOA funding, DOOR has obtained an Enhanced Career Services for Dislocated Workers Grant and the Disability Employment Initiative Round 8 Grant from NYSDOL. We continue to conduct fee-for-services activities and constantly pursue new funding opportunities. Despite funding cuts, services at the career center continue to function well.

**VIII. Old Business/New Business**

No old or new business was discussed.

**IX. Adjournment**

After a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Rougier, seconded by Mr. Nachman, and carried by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 A.M.