

Oyster Bay-North Hempstead-Glen Cove Local Workforce Development Board

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: August 24, 2023

MEMBERS ATTENDED

William Kurz	Kurz Planning, Inc./Board Chairman
Michele Oliva	Director – Town of Oyster Bay - IGA
May-Whei Lin	NYS Department of Labor
Jay Fund	Hunter Business School
Martin Murphy, Ph.D.	NYSED/LI RAEN
Shital Patel	NYS Department of Labor
Matthew J. Berger, Esq.	Barnes, Iaccarino & Shepherd LLP.
Walter Markowitz	Hofstra University
Glen Wolther	All Round Foods/Bakery Products
Tom Bruno	Director, Hicksville Boys & Girls Club

MEMBERS ATTENDED VIA ZOOM

Jon Siskind, Vice Chairman	The Siskind Group
Maria Frey	ECNY Corp./ ECNY Foundation
Barry Greenspan	Empire State Development-Regional Office Long Island
Veronica Rose-Craig	NYSED/ ACCESS-VR
Edmund Koepfel	Nassau Community College

NON-MEMBERS ATTENDED

Frank Sammartano	Commissioner, Intergovernmental Affairs
John Sarcone	Deputy Commissioner, Intergovernmental Affairs
Camille Byrne	Glen Cove Community Development Agency
Erica Pollick	Hunter Business School
Bridget Headley	Hunter Business School
Jeanne Byrnes	Garden City ACCESS-VR
Kathleen Maffucci	Nassau BOCES
Erica Rechner	Opportunities Long Island
Elvira Lovaglio-Duncan	LIEOC
Dawn Nolan	Abilities, Inc.
Gail Parainfo	One Stop Operator – Town of Oyster Bay, IGA

Josephine Cittadino	Massapequa Career Center, Town of Oyster Bay, IGA
Phil Fortuna	Town of Oyster Bay, IGA
Catherine Frisone	TANF-Town of Oyster Bay, IGA
Patrick O'Malley	Town of Oyster Bay, IGA
Brian Yetman	Town of Oyster Bay, IGA
Linda Scalera	Job Developer, Town of Oyster Bay - IGA

ABSENT MEMBERS

John Keating	PSEG
Sunita Manjrekar	Nassau County Department of Social Services
Gemma DeLeon-Lopresti	Local 1102
Jill Gunzel	Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Co. P.C.
Keith Sperling	National Grid
Ryan Schlotter	Oyster Bay Brewing Co.
Edward Eisenstein	United Network Associates
Nicole Grodner	Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters
Anthony Porcelli	Hofstra University
Mario Marinez	Port Washington Community Action Council
Douglas Kowalczyk	HiTempco

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by the Oyster Bay-North Hempstead- Glen Cove Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Chairperson, Bill Kurz, at 10 A.M. Chairman Kurz thanked those in-person and via Zoom for their attendance at the meeting. He then asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

II. LWDB Director's Update

Michele Oliva, LWDB Director, welcomed everyone in attendance. Director Oliva stated that as a result of a recently published Request for Proposals for Out-of-School Youth Providers, there were five (5) proposals received which were reviewed by a Review Committee led by Vice-Chair Jon Siskind. The Review Committee rated all five (5) proposals, and the top three-rated proposals were Nassau BOCES, Career and Employment Options, and United Way. Director Oliva suggested that if the Board Members concurred, a contractual process with these three (3) providers would be moved forward. Director Oliva also stated that she would need a Board Member to assist with reviewing proposals received from another recently published Request for Proposals for Staff Leasing Services. Additionally, the Director stated that she is planning on creating a subcommittee to focus on the employment and training needs of youth, as well as a subcommittee to determine the types of workforce programs that would best support the participation of individuals with disabilities.

III. Approval of the May 24, 2023 Minutes

Chairman Kurz asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the LWDB Meeting of May 24, 2023. A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Walter Markowitz, and Tom Bruno seconded the motion.

IV. Action Items

A. Approval Process for Out-of-School Youth Proposals

William Kurz asked for a motion to approve the Out-of-School Youth proposals and asked if all five (5) proposals had been sent out to the members for review. Director Oliva stated the proposals had not be distributed to members. It was suggested that Jon Siskind, Vice Chair, who headed the Committee would voice the Committee's recommendations of proposals reviewed. However, it was decided to have the five (5) proposals emailed to all Board Members for review and to conduct a full board vote via email.

B. Approval Process for New Training Provider Applications

Chairman Kurz announced the next item on the Agenda, which was the approval process for two (2) training provider applications. An overview and evaluation sheets for both Island Harvest/Workforce Skills Development Institute and Abilities, Inc. were shared with members.

Gail Paraninfo, One-Stop Operator, provided a summary of the two (2) training providers. Gail began her presentation by discussing Island Harvest/ Workforce Skills Development Institute's "Warehousing and Inventory Control Program." She noted that Island Harvest is a new training provider, and does not have a long track record. Gail expressed concern about the Institute's lack of licensing which provides proof that the courses have been reviewed, approved, and registered by an applicable oversight agency. Other areas of concern addressed were a 50% placement rate for graduates; training advertised as "free" to the general public; and the expense of the course. Gail also reviewed the "benefits" which included a modern and well-equipped training facility; positive feedback from Suffolk County Department of Labor and graduates; and the lack of warehousing training available through current providers.

Members, Walter Markowitz and Glen Wolther expressed concern about the need for a Warehousing Program that could be taught by employers at the site rather than through an expensive training program. Mr. Wolther also questioned the quality of training offered at Island Harvest/Workforce Skills Development Institute.

Gail suggested that since the "Repacking Operations Basics" is a new course and has never been taught, a decision regarding this course should be made **once** students have attended.

The final determination by Board Members was to “table” a decision regarding approval of Island Harvest/Workforce Skills Development Institute and Abilities, Inc., and to email members additional information regarding these two (2) training providers so that an email vote could be cast. There were also concerns raised about neither provider presenting an overview of their training programs.

During this discussion, Glen Wolther and Walter Markowitz expressed concern about the lack of a “personal touch” in the location of the meeting, and suggested that a computer room was not an ideal location. Both members also expressed their concern in having members attend via Zoom.

V. Presentation

Martin G. Murphy, Ph.D., Director, Long Island Regional Adult Education Network (LI-RAEN), discussed the role of NYSED’s Adult Education Programs & Policy (AEPP) in supporting adult students with successful pathways and transition into the workforce. Dr. Murphy explained how adult literacy programs and workforce development programs are linked in addressing the needs of job-seekers.

VI. Old Business

Gail Parainfo mentioned the recent Career Center Certification process conducted for both the Massapequa and Hicksville Career Centers. Ms. Parainfo congratulated both Career Centers on passing all required standards for certification and in achieving the highest level of certification which designates both Centers as “Comprehensive Career Centers.”

VII. New Business

May-Whei Lin, NYSDOL Employment Services Manager, distributed information regarding “The Federal Bonding Program” and explained how this bonding program enables job seekers facing barriers to employment be insured by free federally sponsored fidelity bonding coverage if an employer’s regular insurer rejects coverage. The program serves as an incentive to employers seeking to hire qualified workers.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned