

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
01.13.10
Executive Committee Meeting
CONMED
8:30 AM

Committee Members Present:

Gary Scalzo, Robin O'Brien, Wilber Allen,

Staff:

Alice Savino, Tanya Flihan

Grant Staff:

Mitch Geddes, Suzanne Merritt, Mick Fay, Marie Suppa, Madhu Gupta, Alan Lam, James Lee, Sarah Gately, Sarah Bogar, Gene Borzendowski, Rochell Ferro, Steven Barnes, Eugenia Racioppa, Latonya Hawkins, Jenna Zeman, Charlene Deon, Kelly Domizio

Call to Order:

Gary Scalzo, Chair at 8:35 a.m., called the meeting to order.

Consent Agenda:

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and Financial Report:
Approval at next Executive Committee Meeting

Presentations by Grant Staff:

Target Group-Youth

Youth Build- Sarah Bogar, Project Director; Gene Borzendowski, Steven Barnes and Eugenia Racioppa: **Goal 63 youth**, 18-24 youth, learning construction skills, High School dropouts from low income families, working on GED at the BOCES Utica Access site, 8 hours of work 2 hours of GED preparation. 7.25 An hour working construction and 4.00 every hour at BOCES.

Disconnected Youth- Rochelle Ferro, Project Director; 16-24 Yr old youth, **Goal 60 on probation, 20 Dropouts:** Low income individuals on probation, high School dropouts, This program is a close component to Youth build, but a separate grant.

Career Link- Suzanne Merritt, Project Director, Alan Lam, Case Manager, Mitch Geddes- targets 16-25 yr olds with disabilities, A 5 year federal grant with the goal of employment, Works with the other grants because of the age groups.

Target Group-Ex-Offenders

Adult Ex-Offender Re-employment- Kelly Domizio, Project Director, Gives direct services to ex-offenders out of Johnson Park in the Cornhill area in Utica, NY. Assists participants with Resume preparation, Job Club, interview clothing, mock interviews, self esteem classes, employer relationships and subjects that leads to their successful employment.

Target Group-Individuals with Disabilities

Customized Employment Sustainability- Latonya Hawkins, Project Director, Grant from the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University, to undertake a sustainability demonstration project as part of a statewide Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, “NY Makes Work Pay” (NYMWP). This project contributes to NYMWP by demonstrating sustainable ways to promote customized wage based employment for jobseekers with disabilities. It will build on the framework of the Customized Employment Grant (CEG) implemented in 2003-2006. The project is expected to result in improved employment outcomes for up to 200 job seekers with disabilities by the end of 2010. Other deliverables include dissemination/ replication products, a permanent CE Team, a sustainability plan and full integration of (or concrete steps toward integrating) the above components into system operations.

Wheels for work- Contracted and Directed by RCIL, Nermin Keric, WIB representative, helps low-income families’ secure reliable transportation to get to work and stay employed. The Wheels for Work program provides used vehicles and other related services to working individuals, helping them obtain employment or keep a job, giving them and their families a brighter future. In addition to providing cars, the Wheels for Work program offers assistance with car repairs, auto insurance, registration and licensing fees, financial counseling, driver’s education, defensive driving courses and car maintenance training.

Disability Program Navigator-Michael Fay, Project Director, Roberta Bert, New York State is participating in a national pilot to support dedicated Disability Program Navigator (DPN) positions in local One-Stop Centers. Under this initiative, DPNs serve as disability resource specialists to help individuals with disabilities “navigate” through available programs and services in the local One-Stop system. The DPNs work to increase employment opportunities and the self-sufficiency of persons with disabilities by linking them to employers to achieve successful entry or re-entry into the workforce.

Target Group-Low income, unemployed

Long-term Healthcare Project-Marie Suppa, Project Director, created an alliance of employer, training providers and community based organizations to address recruitment and training problems facing long term employers by expanding recruitment through partnerships. This grant attracts refugees and minorities to the healthcare field, with partnerships from community based and workforce systems.

Career Pathways- Charlene Deon, Project Director, Veronica Miller, Nicole Davis, Enables those who qualify the opportunity for education and job placement assistance in high demand positions in the Mohawk Valley region. Once employed in a certified Career Pathways occupation, CPath continues to help customers gain additional skills and credentials they need to move up the job ladder and helps individuals overcome any challenges that have kept them from getting the training and education they need.

Wage Subsidy Program-Emerging&Transitional Workers-Sarah Gately, Project Director, James Lee, Community Coordinator- the Wage Subsidy Program (WSP), funded through the NYS Office of Disabilities and Temporary Assistance, assists low-income individuals and public assistance recipients to find and retain employment.

The Emerging and Transitional Worker Training program was made possible through a grant by the New York State Department of Labor. It is intended to provide emerging and transitional workers with the necessary skills and competencies to successfully obtain employment and advance their careers through such priority services, but not limited to, career planning, work readiness training, High School Diploma or Equivalent preparation, basic occupational skills training. The program targets the dislocated youth population between the ages of 18 and 24.

Conclusion-Gary Scalzo, WIB Chair-Commended the Project Directors for the opportunity to learn about there programs, and also for sharing their knowledge, and for showing passion and enthusiasm that they have working in the programs.

Miscellaneous:

Robin O'Brien suggested having a list made of the programs with addresses, phone numbers and small description of each program for employers to make direct contacts. Robin also suggested to having an employer luncheon or event for employers to publicize these programs.

Meeting Schedule:

Full Board Meeting for January 19, 2010 Cancelled

Next meeting of the Executive Committee: February 10, 2010 –Radisson Utica Centre @ 8:30 A.M.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 A.M.