

**Full Board Meeting**  
**ZOOM**  
**Friday, March 12, 2021**  
**8:30 AM-9:30 AM**

**Committee Members Present:**

Beth Bowers, Mike Choquette, Amy Turner, Gary Scalzo, Emily Arthur, Franca Armstrong, Robert Brenchley, Samantha DiRiso, Allene Monaghan, Alice Savino, Julie Synakowski, Karin Piseck, Scott Ingmire, Terry Humphries, Ellen Bowe, Phil Martini, Mellissa Burns, Cheryl Blask, Cheryl Zumbo, Zoë Vandermeulen, Lisa Betrus, Theresa Jalowiec and Shawna Papale

**Call to order:**

Beth Bowers welcomed potential new board member, Theresa Jalowiec, VP of People + Talent at Northland Communications and MVSHRM Board President. She's been there for about 15 years and in HR since 2013. Welcome Theresa!!

Meeting called to order by Beth Bowers at 8:36am

Mike Choquette is retiring in May and Tim Rosbrook from Revere Copper will possibly join in Mike's place.

Alice announced that Barb Schram has resigned from AmeriCu and from the Board, Beth asked all to forward any potential good fits to the Board.

**Minutes & Financial Report from January 15 meeting**

Minutes/Financial Report approved M/S.....Amy Turner, Bob Brenchley

**Operator Chosen and Introduction**

Zoë Vandermeulen from Action Collaboration is new HMO Operator starting Monday, March 15. She has been the CDO Operator for about a year and on CDO Board for several years. Congratulations Zoë!!

**Update on MOUs**

MOU was submitted on February 26 and we received review and had some corrections to make, Zoë sat in on this discussion, Mary Kate Heaton resubmitted today. Alice was pleased with this process, there are 15 out of 30 boards had requested extensions, but we're in good shape and right on track.

**Community Forum for Cree**

On Monday, March 15 at 5:00pm, Cree will hold a Community Town Hall, at this time, about 380 registered participants, Alice is hoping for 400. Can register right up to 4:59pm on 3/15. Julie sent the flyer around to all board members. Please join in and also share. The meeting will be recorded and added to the Working Solutions website.

Cree and Alice had a meeting with MVCC and MV Edge and spoke about getting recording into the schools as part of a class.

Cree is getting good response to jobs but also having a challenge in finding people willing to drive to Albany until the jobs are local. Cree is looking for 58 new employees by next 9 months.

### **Report on Remington services & status**

Karin Piseck in Herkimer has been working with Remington employees. Almost 200 are in school looking to pursue Cree classes at MVCC. MVCC & Herkimer has been giving extra help since many of these people are not traditional students, need help with online learning.

Funding for the training through the Trade Act is nearing \$1M.

Education paths include CNC, welding, HVAC, continuing education, CDL A licenses, chef, and business.

Herkimer office is open by appointment. Remington takes up about 95% of time, County staff is able to handle other customer needs

Great job Karin!!

### **Staff for new two H-1B grants**

- Austen Johnson is Project Coordinator for IT/Cybersecurity grant as of 2/22.
- Alan Lam will be taking the Project Director position for the IT/Cybersecurity grant.
- Joelle Taylor starting 3/29 for the Rural Healthcare grant.
- Karen Cossaboon working in Plattsburg for the Healthcare grant.
- Gail Breen is helping to find someone in Amsterdam for Healthcare grant.
- Still looking for Project Director for Healthcare grant.

### **WANTO grant**

Rochelle Ferro has decided to move to California and will be leaving April 2, she's been with us for 11 years and we wish her the best. Replacement was found in-house, Stephanie Heiland who worked on the Criminal Justice for Youth program has been working with Rochelle to get caught up. Lot of activity on WANTO grant.

### **Center Update**

#### **Rome**

Terry from Rome Center said they've had a constant flow of customers via phone or virtually, still not open to public. Some customers have challenges with no e-mail or scanner but they are working around that, meeting people at door to receive or hand out forms, mailing forms. They have 22 from Remington that are in school. The deadline to enroll in training through the Trade Act deadline is April 2.

Business Services staff working with employer needs, seeing a boost in wages, manufacturing up \$2-\$3 an hour.

Samantha DiRiso asked both Terry and Karin to send her information to push out to Remington folks regarding deadline. Karin said they sent out another mailer and that helped.

## **Utica**

Cheryl from Utica Center said the DOL staff has been dedicated to pandemic response, significant UI fraud, staff was assigned to that 7 days a week, overnight hours. Finally mostly back down to 5 days a week, hard work but rewarding. Missy said still doing virtual services but mostly all pandemic related.

## **Oneida**

Ellen said majority of calls are for unemployment fraud or still calling to ask how to get their money. No DOL staff, all County by appointment only, they do have a drop box in front. 8 Remington customers, 1 potentially going to school, few waiting to see what's going to happen. She also noticed the salary increases but hard to get people to go back to work with transportation and child care issues. Ellen said 3-4 people call for or apply for openings but don't follow through.

Amy from MVCAA mentioned that the majority requesting assistance are females, head of household with children. They can't return to work due to child care, very frustrated. You can see the difference in UI claims females vs males. 150K women out of work.

Headstart started opening back up a few weeks ago, birth to preschool age.

Phil said to call DSS for help with daycare issues – MVCA makes a lot of referrals to DSS.

Terry is seeing a lot of interested in tele jobs, mainly medical billing. Is there a skills gap? Need further conversation. Will see a shift in how employers will operate more toward tele jobs.

## **Other business**

MVCC Job Corp expanded beyond zip codes 13501 & 13502 to include from any community in Mohawk Valley. Available for ages 17-24, low income, must be US citizen or permanent resident. 1 year certificate in mechatronics, welding, cnc machinist, carpentry & masonry and HVAC. Funding pays for student tuition, books and supplies as well as some meals and transportation cost. Julie sent the flyer on 3/12.

**Next Executive Committee meeting April 9, 2021**

**Next Board meeting May 14, 2021**

Adjournment at 9:16am: .....M/S.....Mike Choquette, Amy Turner